

GRAEME LE SAUX: THE MAKING OF A **TOUGH GUY**

SPORT, PAGE 30



THE BEATTY MYTH: **ALL WE NEED** IS SEX



FRAMED: THE FINE ART **OF ROBBERY**

PAGE 9

Nato orders Kosovo peace deal

AS THE slaughter continues in BY RUPERT CORNWELL Kosovo, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is to travel to Yu- 300,000 have lost their homes, goslavia today to deliver what amounts to an order from the across the southern Balkans. great powers to President Slobodan Milosevic and ethnic Al-measure of autonomy for Kosobanian leaders to sit down together and wrap up a peace forced by a specific final warning deal within three weeks.

were killed by Yugoslav securi- meets the demands for Yuty forces in a dawn raid on a village south of the capital, Pristina the six nation Contact allowed to investigate the roup yesterday issued its plan 15 January massacre at Racak to end a year of carnage. More than 2,000 people have died and the foreign ministers of Britain,

The proposals, giving a broad vo, are expected to be reinfrom Nato to Mr Milosevic that Hours after 25 Albanians he faces air strikes unless he goslav troops to puli back, and for war crimes prosecutors to be

The scheme announced by

the US, France, Germany, Italy and Russia is simple and stark a measure of how the great powers have lost patience with conflict that has stretched Nato's credibility as a peace-

a humanitarian disaster if fight-

ing resumes in the spring. 'We expect agreement in a week," Mr Cook stated flatly, a sentiment backed by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. "We have sent the parties an unmistakable message," she said: "Get serious, showing

up is not enough. But last night it was not

even clear they would show up. province, 90 per cent of whose let alone agree a deal that satisfies neither side.

The initial reaction from both Beigrade and the insurgents of the Kosovo Liberation keeper, and threatens to create Army was frosty. The latter said they would not engage in talks until a ceasefire was in place, and then only about full independence.

The Yugoslav government insisted no ceasefire was possible in a war against "terrorists". Making no mention of the Contact Group proposal, it called for direct talks between

population is Albanian.

In a blunt statement after a two-hour meeting in London yesterday, the Contact Group said it was "summoning representatives of the Yugoslav and Serbian governments and of the Kosovo ethnic Albanians" to a conference starting by 6 February at Rambouillet, near Paris, to be co-chaired by Mr Cook and his French opposite number, Hubert Vedrine. Helped by mediators, they have a week to reach basic agreement, and a

week thereafter to settle the de-

holds, a deal will be in place by

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW

20 February. In fact, despite the lack of enthusiasm in both Pristina and Belgrade, Contact Croup officials are reasonably confident both the Yugoslav/Serb side and the ethnic Albanian political leadership under Ibrahim Rugova will attend. The big problem is the KLA, bitter rivals of Dr Rugova and largely beyond the reach of allied threats.

"We can bomb the Serbs," one senior Nato diplomat said. "but how do we bomb the KLA?" Even so, he insisted, if

the conference would go ahead. with or without the KLA.

As the American envoy Christopher Hill and his EU counterpart, Wolfgang Petritsch, continued their efforts to bring the ethnic Albanians together, Nato was finalising plans to deploy tens of thousands of Allied troops to police a peace deal.

Their task would be to maintain order within Kosovo and, almost certainly, seal the province's borders with Albania and Macedonia.

Germany yesterday joined Britain and France in promising ground troops, and the US

too is bracing itself for some thing it once vowed it would never do. The administration was "watching matters carefully" and would consult Congress before any decision, was

all Ms Albright would say. The ultimate quandary for the Allies, however, will be if the talks either do not start or if they end in failure. The official line is

ground troops would never not be used in those circumstances. But if the slaughter worsened, pressure on Nato to "do something" might become ir-

Troops stand by, page 13

Collins is borne past the graffiti of hate to his grave

A CHORD WAS struck with BY DAVID MCKITTRICK nera: or Lamon Collins yester day when a young woman read from the Bible about a time to keep silent, a time to speak, a time to be born, a time to die.

The lines from Ecclesiastes helped to explain why the fural was taking place: ex-IRA complex reasons, decided simply to ignore the republican rule that a man in his position should keep silent.

Some 50 people, silent, downcast, some with redrimmed eyes, followed his coffin from his home in Barcroft Park to St Catherine's church.

Barcroft Park is a tough republican area of the town of hilly estate: few gathered to watch the funeral procession, and those who did looked on im-

The splashes of colour on

mostly from the plentiful republican paraphernalia. As the mourners shuffled down the hill they passed the graffiti that had threatened Eamon Collins, and predicted his death.

He used to go out with a paintbrush and paint over the slogans or alter them: he changed one which labelled him "RUC Tout" to "RUC out." But he could not wipe out the

hatred of those who regarded

him as a traitor to the republican cause, or those who carried a personal grudge against him. Thus it was that the body inside the coffin was not just

dead but mutilated, stabbed Newry in Co Down, a tight-knit and battered in an attack which, as one police officer graphically put it, could have been carried out by primitive cavemen.

The sad little procession. yesterday's grey day came which seemed to be morely



family, walked past a tricolour. past a poster glorifying an IRA man with a machine-gun, and past an elaborate granite monument erected in memory of locals "who were part of Ireland's

struggle for freedom". Further down, they walked slowly past small knots of people who, wiser and more discreet than Eamon Collins, plainly knew the value of si-

They said little or nothing,

even to each other, giving the impression that they were simply observing rather than being in the business of paying their respects to the dead.

But there was a surprisingly large representation inside the church, perhaps 200 people listening to Father Peter Mc-Parland chide politicians who did not wish to know Eamon Collins when he was alive but who now "use his death to suit

Father McParland produced no extravagant anathema against the killers, contenting himself with remarking in general terms that they had all seen too much of war, hatred the hope that this pointless

killing would be the last. Then, in a local graveyard, who helped the TRA to kill so

publican rules, and who naid the price with his life. His tortured death is only the latest in the toll of more than 3,600 victims of the troubles.

There, at the graveside, was and injustice, and expressing a wreath from his four children "In loving memory of Daddy from Lorcan, Aoife, Sorcha and Tiarnach" - a stark and sad rethey buried Collins, the man minder that he was also somebody's father, somebody's many people, who recanted, husband, and some mother's who refused to obey the reson.

tim

LOUISE WOODWIND WON'T

MAKE A PENKY OUT OF THIS

TRACEDY-THATS MY JOB!

volved in this have been

through - an awful lot," he

said. "It will never leave us but

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

we've got to try and move on.'

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Woodward drama at end as Eappens settle

THE LONG-AWAITED civil trial BY DAVID USBORNE in the Louise Woodward mur- in New York der case was averted at the eleventh hour last night after the former au pair and the parents of Matthew Eappen, the toddler who died almost exactly two years ago while in her care, reached a surprise out-ofcourt settlement.

The deal, which should mean the final lowering of the curtain on the legal drama that propelled the Woodward name on to front pages worldwide, was unveiled in Boston by lawyers for Sunil and Deborah Eappen. It aims to bar Ms Woodward from profiting from her notoriety by selling her

The civil trial, which would have been held with a jury but ruary 1997 five days after being

Rape reform setback

yove by the Lord Chief

'Virtual auctions' row

Sotheby's Internet plans

have angered rivals

Justice could defeat

reform of rape trials

Home P2

INSIDE THIS SECTION

without the attendance of Woodward, was to have got under way in Boston in the next few days. The Eappens were seeking compensatory and punitive damages for the death of their son, which could have run to millions of dollars.

ly convicted of second degree murder in her criminal trial in October 1997. In a surprise twist, however, the trial judge shortly afterwards reduced the conviction to one of manslaughter and freed her on the 279th day she had already served. Matthew Eappen, who was

Monica Lewinsky will

give evidence on video

An old, mad woman was

burnt alive by villagers

in Bill Clinton's trial

Foreign P13

Foreign P14

Woodward, 20, was original-

just 8 months old, died on 9 Feb-

trauma. The Eappens filed their wrongful death lawsuit in June last year, one day after the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court upheld the manslaughter conviction and allowed Woodward to return to Britain. Raised in Elton, Cheshire, she is now studying law at a university in London.

A lawyer for the Eappens, Frederic Ellis, said the settle ment would ensure that Woodward "does not profit from the killing of their 8-month-old baby". There was no information on whether any money will change hands between

Woodward and the Eappens. In a statement, the lawyer said that "enforcement action" would be taken in the event that

Mobile phone deal

go-ahead to take full

control of Cellnet

Sri Lanka crushed

cricketers triumphant

England's one-day

Sport P32

Business P17

BT is given DTI

taken to hospital with head Woodward violates the agreement and that any profits she makes would be seized and donated to the Mattie Eappen Foundation, a charity established by the Eappens. Mr Ellis said he was confi-

dent that any breach of the agreement could be challenged through the British courts. "It's a contract and with any contract there's always a chance it won't be honoured," he said. "If she doesn't honour it, we will bring another action and that action would have to be in

Paul Barrow, the lawyer for Woodward, left open the possibility that his client could still tell her story. He said, however, that any proceeds would be given to the charity of her choice, which would be Unicef. "Louise has always maintained that she has no intention to profit from her story, and Louise continued to maintain her innocence," he said last The Daily Mail drew criti-

cism when it paid for an interview with Woodward's parents, Susan and Gary, conducted becriminal trial. The sum was reported to be £40,000. Last December, the Press Complaints Commission cleared the newspaper of wrongdoing. Last night Mr Woodward

said his daughter's ordeal would always affect the family. "It will never leave us.

"We can try, we've been

through - and everybody in-

INSIDE THE REVIEW

Natasha Walter Art at gunpoint Can Warren Beatty at 60 still believe his own propaganda for sex?

Fergal Keane Yemen: I fear I've been complacent about race

Review Front

Museums and collectors are vulnerable to raids by gun-toting gangs

Features P9 Anna Pavord finds a solution to waterlogging **Garden P17**



🥦 IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Deliberately killing people in front of their families; torturing and mutilating victims before shooting them ... for such a task, you need people who enjoy their work. Fintan O'Toole on the IRA

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING DAVID THOMSON, JEREMY CLARKE, WALLACE ARNOLD, PETER YORK, CRISTINA ODONE JOAN SMITH, GILBERT ADAIR, MICHAEL BYWATER, DEAR ANNIE, CAPTAIN MOONLIGHT, FELIPE FERNANDEZ-ARMESTO AND ALAN WATKINS

Lords set to defeat rape evidence Bill

GOVERNMENT MOVES to ban rape defendants from cross-examining their accusers are facing defeat in the House of Lords next week following an extraordinary intervention by the country's most senior

sitting judge The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, yesterday laid down an amendment to the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill that would allow rape victims to be questioned by defendants. This would occur only if judges deemed it ssary for a fair trial.

A further amendment challenges the Bill's ban on barristers raising a woman's sexual history in a rape case, another element about which Lord Bingham is known to have "serious misgivings". The Home Secretary, Jack

Straw, has frequently promised better protection for rape victims in court, and is understood to want to defend the Bill in its entirety. The measures followed two

high-profile rape trials in which the defendants represented themselves and humiliated their victims in open court.

Both Raiston Edwards and Milton Brown were convicted. but women's groups and Labour MPs were appalled that judges had not intervened in their respective trials.

Yet Lord Bingham points the Government is likely to Court of Appeal has issued very strict guidelines to prevent lobby". the incidents happening again. No similar cases have since occured, he asserts.

His amendment will insist nation will not be enacted is no change, he faces a major

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BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

unless there is evidence that the guidelines are failing.

Similarly, the second amendment will allow judges the discretion to allow questions about the rape victim's sexual history to be raised only if it is

Lord Bingham: Know to bave 'serious misgivings'

The Bill faces its first key test

on Monday when the amend-

ments are heard in the Com-

mittee Stage in the Lords, and

from the Lords' "barrister's

porters hope that the amend-

ments will force the Home

Secretary to "think again"

about the measures, but if there

Lord Bingham and his sup-

to the judiciary the discretion to make rulings in rape cases. seen as crucial to the interests Baroness Mallalieu, a practising QC, said that the Government was legislating in response to public perception of a problem that rarely occured

What the Bill proposes is unnecessary because there have only been two cases where there has been a problem. It is a really drastic step to deprive somebody in all circumstances of the right to occasionally, it helps to get at

"Similarly, I've never seen a case where a judge has allowed unnecessary questioning of an accuser's sexual history. The rules are already very strict.

"I get Women Against Rape and other people phoning me up, but of course we are all against rape. It's just that we don't want to make the law so harsh that juries start acquitting because they think the defendant hasn't had a fair

A spokeswoman for the the Bill was going through the early stages of its passage through Parliament.

The Government will listen to all the comments made, but the Bill as currently drafted reflects Government policy,"



Three-year-old Elle Walsh dialled 999 when her mother, Liz, 28, got locked in a cupboard with her brother Harry, 20 months, as a game of hide and seek went wrong at their home in Yetts of Muckhart, central Scotland. Elle directed police to the home and they freed the pair

Three latest Britons arrested in Yemen 'have confessed'

THREE Britons arrested by Yemeni security forces this week

The three, who surrendered to police on Thursday after being surrounded for two days in mountains in eastern Yemen. were captured with three other men: a French national of Algerian origin, an Algerian and a Yemeni. They will join five

in connection with alleged ter- other Britons and an Algerian for rorist offences have confessed, trial today in the southern port said they had also admitted to charges of associating with armed groups, forming a plan to commit murder and destruction.

and possessing weapons. Last night, campaigners for the British prisoners - all 24 December - appeared in Muslims from Birmingham, court looking distressed and

Luton and London - called the showing bruises and cuts. Amid

on Wednesday when the five Britons - Malik Nasser, 26, Samad Ahmed. 21, Shahid Butt, 33, Gulam Hussain, 25, from Luton, Malik Nasser, 26, and one Algerian man arrested on

confessions "worthless" and scenes of near-chaos, they said they had been elicited claimed they had been sexually abused and electrocuted with atue-proos. They have not withdrawn their confessions.

So far the Yemenis have denied access to doctors wishing to check the men's condition. Mohammed Latif, a barrister, and Dr Christopher Milroy, a home office pathologist and tor-

ture specialist, were due to fly

out to Yemen today to see the

men, together with Mr Ahmed's The Yemenis were last night reported to be blocking any further visa requests to foreign nationals. This is being interpreted as an attempt to stop the Britons' families gathering sup-

port in Yemen. Relatives of the accused already in Yemen yesterday wrote to the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, asking him to intervene. In their letter they re-

peated claims of torture. "The trial as presently set up represents a flagrant breach of

code of criminal procedure and international law," they said. "In ganising a kangaroo court, where the defendants have no chance to answer or refute the prosecution allegations."

The Foreign Office refused to comment on the letter, as it was "private correspondence", but said the torture allegations were being taken seriously. "We have asked for an explanation and investigation at the highest levels," a spokesman said.

The Yemeni President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, yesterday claimed the Britons were paid \$2,000 by the London-based Muslim cleric Abu Hamza al-Misry to carry out the attacks in Yemen with promises of a further \$10,000. He repeated calls for Hamza's extradition to Yemen, a move that faces some difficulty as Britain and Yemen have no extradition treaty.

Review, page 3

BRITAIN TODAY Noon today

FORECAST

General situation: A missy start with fog patches lingering well into the morning in central areas. Even when they clear much of the country will stay cloudy, and drizzle is likely across western and northern Scotland and parts of Northern Helland, mainly towards northern coasts. Drizzle could affect southern England for a while, too, but most places will be dry. The best of any sunshine will be over south-east England and eastern Scotland but those spots will be rather cold.

Wates, Midlands, E England, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A misty start with fog patches slowly lifting. Staying mostly cloudy and dry. A light, variable breeze. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

Cear N & NE England: Fog patches slowly lifting. Staying mostly cloudy but generally dry with a chance of some late brightness. A light south-west breeze. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

SIN 4 NIW Scotland, Glasgow, W Islas; Mild but cloudy with some drizzle here and there. A moderate south to south-west breeze. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdaen, N Islas: Cloudy or misty at first but staying dry with some sunshine appearing later. A light to moderate southerly breeze. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

N Ireland: Cloudy or misty at first but staying dry with some sunshine appellater. A light to moderate southerly breeze. Max temp 6-90 (43-48F).

OUTLOOK

It will stay dry and settled across much of the country with light winds. Away from the south-east it will be rather cloudy with mist and fog patches early in the morning. South-east England will be colder but here there is a greater chance of some sunshine.

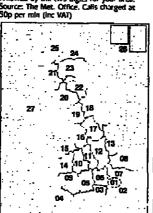
London: A12 Green Man Roundebout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Cambridgeshire A10 between Forton and 8111 Bezerteeline and

Cambridgeshire A10 between normal was latt. Restricting and bridge maintenance work at Shopresh Mill. Until 14th February. Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001. Lancashire: M6 Between J27 Standish and Descharaker contrations and a Jazzabare in Denkert J. Z. Stands i am J. Za Laylend. Roadworks: contration and a Somph aped innt either side of Chamork Richard Services. Until 15th February. Greater Memchester: AST, Narrow kinas Manchester-bound, due to Metrolink con-

struction work, Until 28th February, South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Vladuct (A5108) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178), Sheffield, Camageway reduced to 2 Lanes southbound, Until 21st November 2000. Dumfries and Galloway: A74 between Beetlock and J16 Amandele, Major road-works, until 31st January. Beautox and the remainder the works, until 31st January.
Sufficility A14 Febsative Docks, Roadworks, until 28th February.
AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and naponal traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association, Calls charged

HIGH TIDES AIR QUALITY

WEATHERLINE For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)



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0.5 0.01 13 55 24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Thursday Information by PA WeatherCentre

COME RAIN OR SHINE... RAIN-STARVED regions of Cambodia were drenched with

showers for the first time in

years yesterday but officials

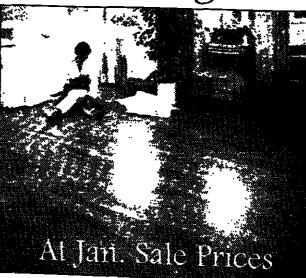
warned it may not be enough to head off a major drought. Cambodia's dry season usually begins in late November and lasts until May. But this year there have been occasional showers in December and January. Agriculture officials say the upcoming dry-season rice harvest will be badly hit by the

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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HE INDEPENDENT Paterget 30 January 1994

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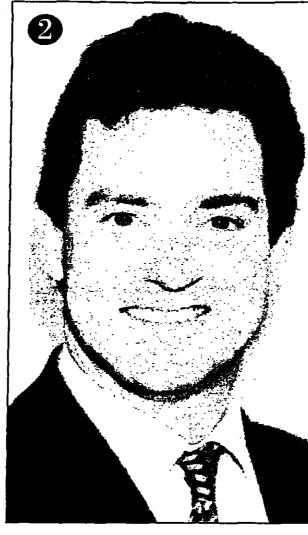
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Can you recognise these top Tories?









(50 per cent of party chairmen can't)

THEY THINK the shadow Home Secretary is "that chap we call Spock " and that their education spokesman is a clever man with glasses. One of them has nd even heard Labour is in power. No wonder William Hazue has decided to censor narty activists.

Many of the 50 local Conserrative chairmen questioned in an Independent survey this week were right behind their leader, though some were not 100 per cent sure who he was.

'Idon't follow what happens in the Conservative Party and would prefer to make no commen on the whole matter." said one respondent. "Why should I be expected to know who the shadow cabinet are?'

He and his fellow chairmen were doing little to boost Central Office was planning to take the blue pencil to its private polling to soften critical comment. Party officials are worried that few members know who's who in the shadow

inet. Tim Yeo's job is having sex in the gutter, isn't it?" said another respondent. "Is he in By Fran Abrams

charge of the environment?" Mr Yeo is his party's agriculture spokesman.

Westminster Correspondent

Mr Hague's choice of key aides did have plenty of backing, though. "The Prime Minister has to pick his own tearn," one activist explained.

When asked how a leader in opposition should act, he replied: "Well, I don't know. You will have to ask Jumpin'

Jack Cunningham." There was also some optimism about the future. "I am a fan of people like Michael

They are young and have a good part to play," one chairman opined. Mrs Shephard is 59 and Mr Howard is 57.

More than three-fifths of the 50 chairmen questioned knew that Peter Lilley was deputy leader and that Francis Maude was shadow Chancellor, but even those two were not familiar to all.

Asked what Mr Maude did, one chairman responded: "Goodness knows!"

Another could not remember who the deputy leader was. "I can't remember his name. He has blond hair - quite nice but shy and retiring." he said. "But Howard and Gillian Shepherd. it should be Ann Widdecombe.'

"Atkinson, something like that. Pass," guessed one. Another said: "I'm not at all sure. Its not important, in my Asked to name the Conser-

Three party chairmen

thought Gillian Shephard still

spoke on education - a job she

first becoming shadow Leader

of the House and then

spokesman on the environ-

ment, transport and the re-

now held by Virginia Bottomley, the former Health Secretary.

Smith's shadow at the culture

department, was placed in the

correct job by just 12 of the 50

One thought the job was

Poor Peter Ainsworth, Chris

gave up at the general election,

vative Party's home affairs Fowler – just 18 managed to do

Four thought the job was held by Michael Howard, who speaks on foreign affairs. John Redwood did much

better than most, but with several eager chairman placing him at home affairs instead of trade and industry. One described him admiringly as "the we're not leaping up the polls. Enoch Powell of our age".

Mr Yeo's high recognition factor seemed to have more to do with a past extra-marital affair than his job, and only 18 chairmen correctly named his current job.

One placed him at education, adding: "He's a good chap. I like

William Hague was popular with most of his party chairmen, and one said a local dinner at which he spoke was sold out almost instantly. Nearly all agreed he was fighting an uphill battle against a popular government and an unenthusiastic press.

"I am mystified as to why

I frankly think the world has ditch older members of the given up on politics," one reshadow cabinet for younger spondent said MPs, but others were not sure

Another thought Mr Hague should emulate the Prime Minister: "Mr Blair walks across water every day, but he only says what he is going to do and not what he has done. We should maybe learn from that,"

he said. Others were not so sure that would work, though, and

seemed to fear their every move would prove unpopular. "Mr Hague cannot fire his guns too soon otherwise policies set shot down too soon hefore the general election." one

considering he had been appointed only last summer. "His profile has been rising

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Some wanted Mr Hague to

"He has got to introduce

new blood, but the trouble is we

don't have much young blood to

choose from," said David Jack-

son, vice-chairman of the

Boothferry party and one of the

few who would be named.

even that would work.

gently as you would expect. It does take time, and not many people watch parliamentary Question Time," he said. A party spokesman said the Conservatives had difficulty getting their spokesmen on the media,

but that was now improving. A widely held view that the Tories would gain popularity as Labour's failings were exposed was correct, he added.

Mr Ainsworth could not be "The newcomers are making contacted yesterday but the an impact. That may not have chairman of his Surrey East got to Chipping Sodbury yet but constituency party said a 20 per it is a start." he said. cent recognition rate among

Interviews by Cathy Mayer, Dominic Fifield, Meera Selvaparty officers was not at all bad nanthan, Lisa Baxter and Tom

British intelligence foils plot to bomb Iraq rebels

HOW DID YOU FARE?

1. Sir Norman Fowler (Home Affairs): Some mistook him

3. David Willetts (Education): "I don't know his name but

Tim Yeo (Agriculture) "Who? I never see him on relly."

2. Peter Ainsworth (Culture): "I can see his face but

can't remember his name. He's quite slim, isn't he?"

BEITISH INTELLIGENCE officers have foiled a bomb plot against the US-backed Radio Free Iraq in Prague, according to Czech media reports.

> The bomb plot has also been linked to the sudden firing of the head of the Czech counter instence agency (BIS), Karel iterin, late Wednesday night. It has been alleged that the Czech agency had failed to uncover the planned terrorist

Czech television has claimed that he former Iraqi consul to Prague, Jaber Salim, had been instructed to blow up the offices of Radio Free Iraq in Prague's Wenceslas Square. Salim then informed British intelligence.

By Paul Lashmar

The radio station is publication ponents of the regime of Presdent Saddam Hussein and is beamed into Iraq. It is considered a thorn in the side of the Iraqi government. 🧳

that Salim was an Iraqi sovmaster who has defected and is currently being debriefed in an MI6 safe house in the Home Counties. Salim, 43, head of Iraqi in-

telligence operations in eastern Europe, disappeared late last

He is reported to have told colleagues at the Iraqi em-bassy in Prague that his daugh-

ter needed urgent treatment in Austria. Salim was said to have een an "agent-m-place", passing British intelligence on Iraqi arms purchases from former

Eastern Bloc countries.

The Czech government announced on Thursday that it There have also been reports had fired Vulterin, citing "seri-at Salim was an Iraqi spy-ous professional failure". It has refused to give details and secrecy surrounds the decision. Mr Vulterin was brought in to reorganise the agency in 1997 after it was heavily criticised. However, criticism has continued.

> The agency has been blamed for a number of failures that have embarrassed the Czech government. Most no-

ernment of the sale last year of nine top Czech hotels to Corinthia Group, a Maltese company which the US considers to be Libyan-owned. As a result, the US bans Americans from staying in these key

The Czech daily newspaper Mlada Front Dnes reported that Vulterin was fired for failing to recruit Salim.

The Foreign Office yesterday refused to confirm that British intelligence had foiled the bomb

"We do not comment on intelligence matters," said a Foreign Office spokesman yes-



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Mowlam: My alcoholic father



troubled childhood

night that her father was an alcoholic and doing her school work helped her to deal with the tensions of her homelife.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has rarely spoken of her childhood other than to say her family life was "dysfunctional", but in an in-terview with Michael Parkinson, on BBC1, she revealed how it had affected her.

"I have not talked about it that much because even though ... I don't bave any trouble with it, I don't think my family and my mum should be subjected to it," she said.

MO MOWLAM revealed last By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

But she said that when her mother learnt she would be on the show, she said it was fine for her daughter to discuss it. "It was difficult to bring peo-

ple home because you weren't sure if he would be drunk or sober," she said. "I used to go to my bedroom and do my homework because it got me out of the washing up and having to deal with the problem." Ms Mowlam grew up in

Coventry where her late father,

Frank, was a postal worker. Her

mother, Tina, was a telephon-

ist and Labour activist who

helped shape her daughter's political views She said she wanted to talk

about her upbringing in more detail "when I have more time. "I think it is important for kids growing up in alcoholic families to see if I can do this and get through it, then so can they."

Parkinson also asked what it

had been like to talk to murderers during the negotiations for the Northern Ireland peace process. "It is not easy and the emotions you feel are very mixed and particularly after having met some of these people, then to meet the families of the victims," said Ms Mowlam.

© 339 ()●

Lawrence detective is moved off case

THE DETECTIVE heading the dormant investigation into the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence has been moved because of a corruption inquiry and replaced by John Grieve, head of the Metropolitan Police's specialist race

Scotland Yard said yesterday that Detective Superintendent Albert Patrick had been taken off the Lawrence case as a result of the unrelated inquiry into officers based at the Flying Squad in east London.

The family's solicitor, Imran Khan, had demanded Mr Patrick's removal in a letter to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon. last week.

News of Mr Khan's move Independent revealed that both he and Michael Mansfield QC. barrister for the Lawrences, face criticism in the report of crime units. the public inquiry into Stephen's death for their failure to dissuade the family from mounting the ill-fated private prosecution of the murder

Yesterday both lawyers refused to comment on the dis-

There is no suggestion that Mr Patrick is directly implicated in the allegations of corruption, but he faces a disciplinary investigation understood to relate to the supervision of officers in his

Mr Grieve, the highly respected head of the Met's racial and violent crime taskforce, is was "about the same" for black now the detective in charge of and white victims. all the high-profile race murder investigations in London.

He is leading the hunt for the killers of Michael Menson, the black musician who was set on fire in a London street, as well unfounded and without subas the investigation into the stance."

case of Ricky Reel, an Asian student found drowned in the

John Stevens, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, yesterday defended the timing of the announcement of Mr Patrick's removal.

The decision had been taken in December, he said, before Mr

"We decided that now would be an appropriate, sensitive and sensible time to make that move," he said.

The corruption allegations date from an era before Mr Patrick headed the Lawrence investigation, and are not connected with the Lawrence case

Mr Stevens stressed that emerged on the same day The Mr Patrick had not been charged, disciplined or suspended. His new job is to carry out a review of major area

> Mr Patrick was in charge of the third squad of detectives to investigate Stephen's murder by a white gang in April 1993. No one has been convicted.

Mr Grieve hopes to follow up new lines of inquiry. But he will also ask members of the public to volunteer fresh information about the killing.

Peter Gammon, chairman of the Police Superintendents' Association, attacked what he called "the continued vilification of the police service" over with the Lawrence case.

ation conference in Chester that the clear-up rate in murders

still being levelled at officers involved and at the police service as a whole." he said.

"We feel the accusations are



Some of Simpson's last customers doffing their hats to the demise of a British institution

Purveyor of suiting to Mr Bertie Wooster finally shuts up shop

THE SMILING face of the doorman as he greeted some of Símpson's last customers belied the discontent inside the store. Two assistants were having an

indiscreet moan about the way bargain-hunters were rummaging through the last of the stock. It was all rather undig-Mr Gammon told an associnified towards the end. At 3pm today, the doors of Simpson, in central London, will

close for the last time. The "Accusations of racism are shop is something of an institution, part of the worldrenowned parade on Piccadilly. alongside Fortnum & Mason. Hatchard's (booksellers since 1797) and the Royal Academy of Arts. Tatty red awning

bedecked the entrance, and the words "Good buy, Good buy" were sprayed on the building's famous curved windows. Long-standing customers had come to say just that yesterday. One, Margaret Simpson - a well-spoken woman, immaculately turned out in one of the store's navy hacking jackets -

was particularly sad to do so. As it turned out, she was no relation of the original Simeon Simpson. who established Simpson's Daks line of clothing in 1894. Over the years, however, she had enjoyed deferential treatment from staff who

assumed she was. "I wish I had what came from the workroom. been a 'Simpson' Simpson," she said. "It wouldn't have closed if I had been."

Sozos Liassides, who has worked in the men's suits department on the third floor since 1971. was trying to maintain standards to the last. The 65-year-old Cypriot, known to colleagues as "Andy" (anything else was too complicated), retired in September, but agreed to stay on until the closure.

"I'm a qualified tailor." he said. "I did alterations of my own free will to satisfy the customers, because they pay my wages, not the company. If I wasn't satisfied with

I did it myself because then it was perfect. Many times I ripped garments to pieces and put them together again."

Mr Liassides stood beside the lonely rails of remaining suits. His own clothes hung beautifully, but then again, he had made them himself. Perhaps he could have made it into management if he d played his cards differently, but he didn't care for politicking, he said. He cared for the clothes and the customers, a quality that probably contributed in no small part to Simpson's reputation.

"I don't know." Mr Liassides murmured mournfully: "It's a

pity because you can't find many people like us anymore. Great Britain used to be number one in the world for making garments. Now I don't know what's happening. Most of the stuff is imported. Why don't they

train young people?" The barber in the basement was rather jaded by the sentimentality surrounding the store's closure.

"It seems to be a very drawn-out end and I think we've got to the point now when we are glad to clear off. People are very upset that the place is closing. But you ask them if they shop here and they say 'No'.

Sarwar **'offered** to pay fines'

Gold deni attac

BY NICK MEO

A MAN said to be Labour MP Mohammed Sarwar told anassociate that he would pay my fine imposed on the man, according to a tape recording played to a jury yesterday.

The associate, said to be Badar Islam, repeatedly asked the other man if he could be jailed for lying in a statement. But the man said to be MrSarwar told him he would not expose "his brother" to any risk and would pay any fine. "sven £100.000".

A recording of fragmentary conversations, in both English and Punjabi, were payed at the High Court in Edin-burgh by advocate Dincan Menzies QC. A translator assisted the jury.

Mr Menzies said the tapes related to the second of the four charges Mr Sarwar faces, that alleges he attempted to pervert the course of justice by inducing Mr Islam to swear a false statement in return for a payment of £5,000 soon after the May 1997 general election.

Mr Sarwar, 46, of Glencairn Gardens, Pollokshields, Glasgow, denies this and the three other charges - of fraud rela ing to the addition of four names on the electoral register, a second charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice, and an allegation of understating electoral expenses.

The businessman became Britain's first Muslim MP when he was elected for Glasgow Govan in 1997.

A co-accused, Mumtaz Huisain, 41, from Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, denies oue charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

On the tape played yesterday, reference is made to fa registration of voters. At are point, the man alleged to be Sarwar says: "One thing worth mentioning to you, the fike registrations... Labour vas also doing these, the SNP vas also doing these." The rian said to be Sarwar is also heard speaking of how his enemies wanted to "destroy" him. There is mention made in the tare of

the word "bombshell". The trial resumes on Monday.

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Labour vetting panel has 'bias to stop Livingstone'.

cused of trying to "kneecap" Ken Livingstone's campaign for mayor of London yesterday when it emerged that the party's vetting panel had been packed with his opponents.

The former GLC leader's supporters reacted angrily after it was revealed that the panel formed to draw up a shortlist of candidates was heavily skewed against him.

In the most serious setback to date for Mr Livingstone's bid to become Britain's first directly-elected mayor, The Independent has learnt that the 12-strong panel is dominated by staunch Millbank loyalists.

The membership of the body emerged as a new controversy erupted over the Brent East MP's comments that govern-ment cuts were "whacking" the poor in the capital. Writing in the London Evening Standard, Mr Livingstone claimed that the most vulnerable had been hit hardest by a recent round of council cuts in London.

The comments contrasted with an earlier open letter to

LABOUR OFFICIALS were ac- By Paul Waugh Political Correspondent

Tony Blair in which the MP said that he would not use the mayoralty to wage political warfare against the Government.

According to a confidential Labour document approved by the party's national executive committee, the vetting panel for all Greater London Authority candidates will comprise four NEC members, four London party members and four "independent" members.

The NEC figures are the set Livingstone: Setback Parliamentary Labour Party chairman, Clive Soley, with two loyal officials from the MSF and

AEEU unions. The Greater London Labour Party members are dominated by the "stop Ken" camp, as is the independent group. Worse still for Mr Livingstone, the document states that the "disciplinary and voting record" of all candidates will scrutinised.

The detailed selection procedures for the mayoralty are to be decided over the next two months, but it is understood



for mayoral campaign

that the panel will be used for both GLA assembly and the mayoral coutests.

Geoff Martin, London convener of Unison and a former member of the London Labour Party Board, said the moves proved that Millbank officials were determined to block Mr Livingstone. It is just so transparent now that this is an attempt to kneecap Ken and the ordinary Labour voters and

panel members is another attempt to erect barriers to his candidacy. The people who should really have a say are the ordinary members." But Jim Fitzpatrick, MP for Poplar and Canning Town and chairman of the London Labour Party, said Mr Livingstone's conflicting statements proved he was trying to "dupe" party members. "It seems Ken has changed his mind about being loyal to the Labour Party before

Tony Blair," he said. "If Ken cannot keep his word for a mere 24 hours, how can anyone believe he would stick to his promises over a four-year

the ink is dry on his letter to

mayoral term?" Joan Ryan, MP for Enfi North and a member of the London Party Board, said the selection panel was representative of the ordinary party

members in the capital. "Ken's views and those ofhis supporters are marginal within the Labour Party, so there is no reason why they should be members will see it as such. on a selection panel," she said.

Dome deal set to tame 'Mail'

THE PUBLISHER of the Daily Mail and London Evening Standard is set to be handed the contract to produce a newspaper for the Millennium Dome, in a deal that could help the Government to overcome opposition to the

£758 million project. Associated Newspapers is believed to have beaten off bids from the Express and Mirror groups. The decision to tie up the deal will be taken next month by the governmentappointed task force that advises the Dome's New Millennium Experience Com-

mission (NMEC) on marketing. The deal will allow Associated to produce a four-page

BY PAUL MCCANN AND PAUL LASHMAR

supplement containing 'Dome News, which could be wrapped around a copy of one of its own newspapers. It could also be linked into the group's plans to produce a new free newspaper for London, called Metro.

The Dome is forecast to attract 35,000 visitors a day - 12 million during the year it is open. The bidders believe they should be able distribute up to 2m newspapers in the Dome, allowing one title to get into the hands of hundreds of thousands of potential new readers.

For the Government, bring-

chance to get one of the Dome's fiercest critics on to the side of the Dome. The Daily Mail has christened the Dome the 'Millennium Monster', and has planned daily articles comparing the hospitals and schools that could have been built with the cost of building the Dome. If the title is printing a special supplement, it will be forced to

support the project. The Sun has already switched its opinions on the Dome after its sister company. the satellite channel BSkyB, paid £12m to sponsor an auditorium being built next to the Dome. For its £12m, Sky gets the right to broadcast live

the auditorium to stage its own concerts. From being opposed to the money being spent, The

Sun is now a supporter. Matthew Freud, the public relations exexuctive who sits on the NMEC's advisory committee, is known to have recommended Associated for the contract particularly to end criticism from the Evening; Standard. While the Mail has been vitriolic in its opposition to the project, the Standard has focused on the inconvenience for Londoners caused by traffic problems.

Associated said it was still, awaiting a decision from the For the Government, using sevents from the Dome and use that it had bid \$500,000. NMEC, and denied reports

TODAY

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Said to be Labour inchanged Sarwar tolday inches that he would pay inches to a table record The imposed on the man-man to a lape record the associate said to Badar Islam, repeatedly a can other man if he coul. or lying in a stater. an saw to be Mr. Var tole him he would no has brother to any me would may any fine a A recording of tragmen

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Sarwar Coronation finery and Charles I's to pay fines' silver treasure lie in estuary mud

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN Scotland Correspondent

KING CHARLES I thought it an act of the Devil when he watched the royal ferry Blessing of Burntisland capsize in the Firth of Forth, taking priceless Stuart treasure and memers of his entourage to a watery grave.

Nineteen witches were rounded up in Lancashire for invoking the squall that swamped the vessel in 1633 and a distraught Charles cut short his coronation tour of Scotland and retired to London. The witches died in jail. And Charles. a staunch believer in the divine right of kings, lost his head on the block in Whitehall - 350 years ago today:

Now the waters of the Forth may be about to yield up the wooden hull of the Blessing as well as tons of royal possessions perhaps worth £500m in today's values.

Marine archaeologists yesterday detailed the discovery of a wreck very similar in profile to the ill-lated ferry, buried in several feet of silt. Howard urray, the leader of the proect said the wreck had a better than evens chance of bring the Blessing". But though a diver has touched the heavily encrusted timber, no artefacts will be brought to the surface until the wreck has been fully surveyed and conservation facilities are in place. "I have no intention of being known as the person who destroyed Charles L's treasure," Mr Murray said.

The wreck lies a mile off Burntisland on the north bank of the Forth, at the same spot indicated in 1997 by Jim Longton, 67. a "dowser", who used a map 🐐 pendulum in a technique similar to water divining.

Members of the Burntisland Heritage Trust and the Royal Navy have been searching for the Blessing since 1991. But until Mr Longton's divination hopes were dwindling.

Then last September sonar equipment on board HMS Roebuck located the wreck site.

THE ILL-FATED LAST VOYAGE OF THE BLESSING OF BURNTISLAND Kirkcaldy Planned route Top: Locator map describing the route and whereabouts of the Blessing of Burntisland Above: Sonar image showing the wreckage of the

Far right: King Charles I and last month divers went the Blessing was a humble ferry the discovery of the wreck will to begin verification work.

Ferry. (Arrow shows location of ship)
Right: Artist's impression of the ill-fated vessel

Excited comparisons are being made with the recovery of the Mary Rose. But whereas The computer-produced sur- Henry VIII's magnificent flag-

down beneath 120 feet of water carrying the silverware, finery and coronation gifts of a monarch in his pomp.

Charles I's coronation in Scotland has been largely overlooked by historians in Scotland and vey images were encouraging ship was equipped as a warship, England. The trust hopes that

rekindle interest in the event north of the border and perhaps bring about a rerun. With a Scottish Parliament coming into being this year after almost 300 years, it would be fitting if another Charles - the III as he

in Edinburgh

"It would be a wonderful example of history coming full circie," said Alex Kilgour, a spokesman for the trust. "When we started this project in 1991, we would never have believed

together."

would be - also had a coronation we would get a Scottish Parlia- crowned in London he travelled ment. Somehow it is all coming north for one of the most ex-

> The 17th-century Edinburgh Parliament had told Charles he had to be crowned in Scotland if he wanted to wear the Scottish crown. So eight years after being

travagant tours ever undertak-

en by a monarch. Fountains flowed with red wine and royal portraits by Van Dyck hung in the Royal Mile as

tle down to Holyrood Palace for the coronation. From there he went on to Linlithgow Palace and Stirling Castle. He revisited his birth place at Dunfermline and as an entertainment for his courtiers had a pontoon built over water on which 50 Highlanders danced a fling.

The last stop before the ferry crossing was the royal hunting lodge at Falkland Palace. His 3,000-strong entourage included 150 English nobles and 350 soldiers. And as they approached the Forth, 1,000 horses were needed to pull 200 carts loaded with gifts and royal baggage. The treasure was said to be worth £100,000 - one fifth of the entire Scottish exchequer. Not surprisingly, the likely cause of the Blessing's sinking was not the witches but simple overloading.

A contemporay account records that on a "somewhat tempestuous day some Englishmen, the King's servants and rich coffers were drowned in sight of the King's pinnace, [boat] which made the King melancholy that night".

To the great relief of the project team, Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, slapped a Protection of Wrecks order on the site vesterday to keep treasure hunters away. "We are not treasure hunters, but the the knowledge that they might move in on the site has been one of our biggest wornes," Mr Kilgour said.

He dreams of finding the ferry cabin boy's pipe in the wreck with Charles' books and Bibles, not just the fabled 280piece silver dinning service of King Henry VIIL

A full recovery and conservation operation could cost £5m or £6m - way beyond the trust's means. The team are hoping for Lottery money. And if the ferry is raised, they want it to remain close to the old port of Burntisland

The story of the coronation tour and loss of the Blessing is told in a book launched yesterday by Mr Murray. Sales will help to fund further work. Copies at 49.75p can be ordered via Freephone 0800 833 957 or Internet site the king paraded from the Cas- www.kingcharles-wrex.co.uk

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nel has Antique dealers hammer gstone' Sotheby's online auction

PLANS BY Sotheby's to steal a BY LOUISE JURY march on rivals with the first major auctions in Britain through the Internet have angered art and antique dealers.

ring people r Leading dealers have been approached by the auction house and offered incentives to . . Jaming Towns supply art, antiques and jew-- Locamba ellery for the revolutionary - 15 Lymeste

The British art and antique dealers were made an offer on commission if they agreed to work only with Sotheby's for the next two or three years. They have to sign within seven days.
The British Antique Dealers'

and or file letter Association has now written to --- Paga DOW J its members, warning them to a well a be cautious of the offer as other opportunities should arise as yesterday that the Sotheby's fore they sign up for something "stual auctions" take off in the Tour!

spearheading the company's auctions.

The announcement last week immediately boosted the business's share price and follows the success of other online auctioneers such as eBay in the States. Diana Brooks, president of Sotheby's Holdings, said: "It is clear that the Internet is superbly suited for holding auctions."

Some critics claim that if Sotheby's succeeds, the yould have a virtual monopoly before rivals Christie's follow suit later to take seriously.

in the year. deal was "outrageous and very for three years. We do feel

mal auctions and virtual auctract. We're saying be careful. tions as well so they need to get the dealers on board. If they do global move into Internet they know Christie's won't have a chance when they start."

As goods will not be examined by the auctioneers in the way they would be in a normal auction, it is understood that Sotheby's will rely on dealers with good reputations supplying items for sale. Most dealers sell on some old stock through auction houses.

Elaine Dean, of the British ed by their offer. Antique Dealers' Association said the proposition was an "interesting" one that they had

But she said: "We are urging One antiques dealer said our members to be cautious be-Sotheby's New York office is enough of these goods for nor- to sign quite an extensive con-

An art trade insider said the Sotheby's offer seemed to have outraged many of the dealers. "They feel they are being pushed around. I don't think it

has gone down too well." David Redden, an executive vice-president of Sotheby's, said it was investing more than £15m in the service and needed to ensure it had enough property to sell. The dealers he had spoken to were very excit-

Christopher Davidge, chief executive officer at Christie's, said details of their plans would be revealed on 1 March. But he said: "Christie's will not be proposing any arrangements that restrict competition in the marketplace, as we believe this uncompetitive. There aren't that seven days isn't very long runs counter to the philosophy



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Police chief goes | Charge football after 999 riddle stars, says judge

ONE OF the country's most se- By Jason Bennetto nior police chiefs has retired days after officers from his force went to his home in response to a "999" call, it emerged yesterday.

Earlier this week Robert Turnbull, 51, the Deputy Chief Constable of Cleveland, announced he was stepping down five years before his £72,000-peryear contract was due to end. He was involved in conducting one of the country's largest police corruption inquiries.

cision to retire was announced soon after an incident on 20 Janpary when Cleveland police of iters visited his home in

response to an emergency call. The call is believed to have been made by Mr Turnbull's wife, Margaret, from the couple's home on the Wynyard estate near Stockton, Teesside. It cision after discussions with his is understood the person who wife and two adult children.

Crime Correspondent

rang "999" replaced the telephone receiver before identifying themselves, but police were able to trace the call.

Cleveland police confirmed yesterday that "police attended a house in Wynyard park, Billingham, on January 20". Officers spoke to one person at the house. No one was charged and no complaints were lodged.

Mr Turnbull, who has been Mr Turnbull's surprise de- a police officer for more than 32 years, was entitled to retire, although he has asked to leave in usual three months' notice.

> Cleveland Police Authority has been called to discuss the case. Mr Turnbull said in a statement that he had taken the de-

professional footballers should be prosecuted for assaulting opponents and brought to court

made the comments after bearing the case at Nottingham Crown Court of a 49-year-old amateur footballer who headbutted an opposing player during a match.

Judge Benson said: "I am unable to recall in this country a single footballer in the Premier League or lower who has been prosecuted for this. Sometimes the Scots get it March rather than work out the right. Duncan Ferguson, who assaulted a player, was sent A special meeting of the away for six months and quite right too. If something like that did happen, it would surely

filter down through our game." The judge earlier mentioned a number of other cases: "Paolo di Canio pushed over a referee.

A JUDGE said yesterday that That is common assault in anyone's book. Why on earth he was not brought up on these charges I do not know.

"And there was the match Judge Richard Benson between Arsenal and Southampton where the TV camera caught a Southampton player having his jaw broken. The offending player ended up being banned from the game for nine matches. The report and TV evidence would have been enough to have had a high-

> of in the courts." Donald Annable, 49, of Headland Avenue, Eikesley. Nottinghamshire, admitted causing actual bodily harm to Malcolm Duncan while playing for Clumber Inn against Epworth over 30s on 29 August

profile player made an example

He was given two years' probation and ordered to pay his victim £300 compensation.

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The unknown gems in our urban midst

NEXT TO the farmyard barn, the nonconformist chapel is the most threatened building type in England. This information comes from the Historic Chapels Trust, which was founded six years ago to preserve the best of them, and now looks after 11 chapels scattered from Northumberland to Devon (there are separate bodies for Wales and Scotland).

Nonconformism has never been as fashionable as Anglicanism, nor so well-funded, and for doctrinal reasons its places of worship tend to be plain: "preaching-boxes" is the term often applied. But it was certainly popular and bewilderingly diverse. England has as many non-Anglican as Anglican churches - about 17,000 of them – but who can now tell the difference between Methodists and Independent Methodists, Baptists and Congregationalists, Unitarians and United Reformed?

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All over England, in cities, on moorland, in old factory towns, their separate heaps of brick and stone stand as evidence of once-passionate debate and schism and clique, as well as to self-improvement and belief in God. Sometimes they have been converted to Indian restaurants, nightclubs. flats, second-hand furniture warehouses. Sometimes they stand open to the rain and wind. A surprising number, given the state of British Christianity, still draw clusters of people on a Sunday to listen to sermons and sing hymns.

In north London, I live quite solose to a chapel. The Union Chapel (Congregationalist) stands at the northern end of Upper Street in Islington. Upper Street is very familiar to me. Over almost 30 years I have watched it change from a working-class high street to one of the chief parade grounds of London's young well-to-do, lined with bars. restaurants, estate agents and, lightened public meetings.

NOTEBOOK



in the Almeida, the most fashionable theatre in London, But of the Union Chapel, which after the town hall may well be the street's largest building, I knew nothing.

I noticed its clock. I noticed that it was a Victorian building set in the middle of a Georgian terrace. I wondered who, if anyone, went there and if anyone had ever answered the usual poster invitations to come inside and get to know Christ a little better. I was mildly surprised that it had not been demolished.

On Wednesday, my ignorance was corrected when the Union Chapel's minister, the Rev Janet Wootton, was good enough to show me the inside. Nothing had prepared me (I should have read Pevsner) for the sheer size and spectacle of it. The Union Chapel has polished oak pews that once held 3,000 people, galleries, stained glass, decorative tiles, marble. a great organ originally powered by water (which went on its course to flush the church lavatories).

According to Pevsner (later consulted) the style is 13thcentury French Gothic, with a central plan inspired by the church of Santa Fosca in Torcello, on the Venetian lagoon. But that is just the chapel itself. At the rear of the main building lies a jumble of corridors and handsome halls built for Sunday School tuition and en- years." And, oddly for teetotal

Congregationalism must have seemed a mighty and unquenchable movement when the chapel was opened in 1877. And now? Christian churchgoers account for 2 per cent of London's population. Mrs Wootton preaches to a congregation of 30.

She pointed to the ceiling, more than a hundred feet up, and said that behind the cupola lay an Archimedes screw, a great propeller to expel the foul air that would gather from a 2,000-strong congregation. Today, the problem is not ventilation but heat.

The Union Chapel was near-This way to the bar.

charity, The Union Chapel Project, all kinds of non-Christian events happen here. Rock concerts, readings, theatre rehearsals, Seamus Heaney. Eddie Izzard, Simon Rattle, The egalitarian beliefs of Congregationalism have given it perfect acoustics. Last year Rattle said after his concert: "I'm kicking myself that I've not been performing there for nonconformism, the church

She took me up into the pulpit, which she never now uses (too authoritarian to be modern), and explained the theological reasoning behind the church's design. How the pews arranged on three sides had no hierarchy - every worshipper could see and hear equally well. How the windows had no sills and therefore no room for graven images. How the organ was screened - so as not to tempt the faithful into the worship of musical instruments.

ly demolished in 1980. Its survival owes a lot to the faith of Mrs Wootton and her congregation, but also to secular influence. The chapel is now listed by English Heritage as Grade II*, and the signage inside it is not always biblical instruction. As well as Sure and Steadfast, there is also No smoking and Thanks to an associated



deeds do not proscribe the sale of alcohol. Mrs Wootton has done the research.

A great deal of money still needs to be raised, about £3m for repairs to the fabric alone. The new plan is to make it "a theatre for the human voice' and focus on lectures, debates and choral concerts. Nonconformism is rich in the traditions of dissent and hymns (perhaps its greatest, and wrongly ignored, contribution to British culture). The Union Chapel would be a glorious and

appropriate place to hear both. Out in the traffic of Upper Street again, I felt the slight sadness of the non-believer. The Union Chapel does good work: its halls take in and feed the homeless, children with learning difficulties attend classes there. A shame, then, that one cannot share the spiritual motive of it, believe the story.

In a street and a world consumed by market forces -

house with 100ft gdn, en-suite bathroom to the master bed, £595,000" - the Union Chapel is a refreshing and necessary thing. It was good, at last, to have discovered it.

LATE LAST year I wrote in this column about the wartime documentary films of Humphrey Jennings; about their brilliance as propaganda (because they were so reticently patriotic) and about the poetic lessons they could teach any contemporary British politician who was struggling to evoke a new British identity.

William Hague obviously did not read this, but then he is a busy little leader. His speech last. week on Britishness, by which he may have meant Englishness, was the most terrifying encounter with folksiness since I last heard the late broadcaster Wilfred Pickles. You could see what the Tory leader was trying "renovated family semi-det to do. Out with John Major's

Fifties nostalgia and Baroness Thatcher's Churchilliana; in with something bang up to date. Consequently, we got the British as a "brassy" people who liked soap operas and a good laugh, and also (naturally) nourished a sense of fair play. It is not entirely inaccurate, but it would also fit Brazil or indeed any entrepreneurial nation with more than one television channel.

Also, it might double the emigration figures. He and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown (to whom Tony Blair seems to have dished out the "British question" job in the Cabinet), will have to try harder if they are to persevere as nationalinspirers. Here is some advice, which came in a letter to me this month from Mary-Lou Jennings, the director's daughter.

She writes: "I was interested in your last point: the present need for some cunning, concrete poetry (if ideas of Britishness are to be revived). My father's work in film was. course, and you could argue

I believe, a mission based on his belief in the duty of a poet. In 1938 he did a series of broadcasts on poetry and the public. and in the one on poetry and national life he quoted Apollinaire whom, he said, believed that poets should stand with their backs to the future and face the past because it was in the past that he could discover who he was and how he had

"My father added, "That idea of extracting an idea of what I am from the past is a thing that a poet does for himself, and especially it is a thing that he can do for the community; I mean, he can try and tell tnem who they are... [and talk about] the figures, the monuments, the achievements, the defeats, or whatever it may be that have made the community what it is.' That was what his films, like Listen

come to be him'.

to Britain, were about." Politicians are not poets, of that the past for too long has been a crippling national disease. But politicians who have tried to abolish it - Pol Pot, Stalin - failed among their many other sins to understand human and civic need.

Finally, a note on Jennings. He was probably the finest, most inventive documentary film-maker Britain has produced. He died young, aged 42, when he fell from a rock while he was filming in Greece. His daughter writes that she is beginning to think him "almost forgotten except among film buffs". She also says that he has no memorial of any kind. Even his grave in Athens has been destroyed.

Next year will be the fiftieth anniversary of his death. He deserves to be remembered in some permanent form - a plaque, a bust, an award, a scholarship. I would be happy to pass on letters to Mary-Lou Jennings with suggestions about where and how.

IN BRIEF

Man accused of 14 sex charges

SIDNEY COOKE appeared before magistrates in Newbury Berks, yesterday, charged with 14 serious sexual offences involving eight alleged victims. Mr Cooke, 71, said to be of no fixed address, had been arrested on Tuesday at Yeovil,

Chunnel cheat' claims innocence A MAN has denied using Eurostar trips to cheat two councils

out of housing benefit when he was in fact living in Belgium. Jean-Paul Ngolo Mpati Moka, 33, told the Old Bailey he only travelled to Belgium to preach. He denies gaining a total of £4,653 from Haringey and Hounslow councils by deception.

Extra cash keeps RSC on the road ROYAL SHAKESPEARE Company and Welsh National Opera tours have been rescued by an emergency package of one-off Arts Council grants. Opera North, the Royal

Court Theatre and the Contemporary Dance Trust have

also benefited from the £1.46 million fund.

Porsches recalled for airbag faults PORSCHE IS recalling more than 5,000 vehicles, including 400 in the UK, because of an airbag problem. The recall M-registration 911 sports cars, follows the discovery of an electrical fault that can cause airbags to activate at random.

JACK STRAW: PROFILE



'Priggish' is a tribute paid by the old and dim to the precocious

WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 5

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Do not demonise Islam, says Carey

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury urged Christians and Muslims yesterday to avoid "demonising" one another and instead to focus on working for the common good.

Dr George Carey, who is on an eight-day visit to the Middle East, became the first Archbishop of Canterbury to address the 15,000 worshippers before Friday prayers at Abu Nour Mosque, the largest mosque in Damascus.

He began with the words: "Salaam aleikum! Peace be with you all!" before going on to say: "Sadly, when we look at the history of the world all too often we find it littered with the remains of conflicts between Christians and Muslims. This has led to a culture of distrust and to the tendency for each of us to demonise the other."

Such "demonising" ignored the great contribution both faiths can make to the world, he added. "The influence of our faiths, the strength of our wor-

traditions and the commitment to family life and the lives of our communities gives us a duty and a remakable opportunity to make a significant contribution to the human family and its future," he said.

Dr Carey warned against "aggressive proselytism". Both Christianity and Islam were missionary religions, a fact that could not be disguised nor denied, he said.

"But, despite all the inherent risks in this recognition, there is no reason why it should lead us towards conflict. Rather, it should instil in us a sense of respect, a respect for such enthusiasm and devotion of faith," Dr Carey said.

He hoped his presence at the mosque before Friday prayers "will be seen by Muslims everywhere as my commitment to a dialogue based on friendship. integrity and honesty - and above all respect between the ship, the enduring force of our members of both our faiths".

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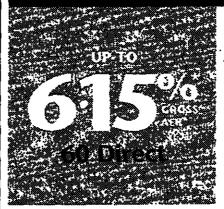
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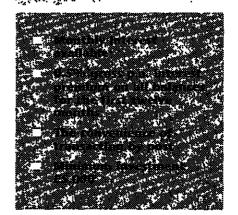


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Heads' pay rise twice that of teachers*

PRIMARY HEAD teachers will BY JUDITH JUDD receive pay increases of between 6 and 9 per cent this year as part of the teachers' pay settlement, which is due to be announced on Monday.

Classroom teachers, by contrast, are expected to be awarded a rise of just under 4 per cent, well above the inflation

Teachers reacted angrily last night to the news that

Education Editor

heads. But the Government believes that head teachers are the key to their ambitious programme for raising standards. Ministers want to stem the recruitment crisis for headships in small primary schools. Increases will depend on the size of the school. Heads of the smallest schools are expected to receive the biggest rises ondary schools will also receive higher-than-average rises of between 4 and 6 per cent.

In the last academic year 28 per cent of primary headships. had to be readvertised because no suitable candidate came forward in the first round. One in five secondary headships was also readvertised. The worst difficulties are in inner London where 60 per cent of headships were not filled at the first attempt. David Hart, gen-

about £32,500. Heads of sec- eral secretary of the National appalling treatment for the secretary of the National Union class sizes will rise. Ministers. Association of Head Teachers. said: "At last the School Teachers' Review Body has started to recognised the size of heads' jobs as well as the need to resolve the current severe recruitment crisis. More still seriously indeed." needs to be done to reward heads for their heavy responsibilities." But Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the Na-

tional Association of School-

masters Union of Women

Teachers, said: "This is pretty

poor infantry in the classroom. of Teachers, said the pay rise There is no justification for this inferior treatment of ordinary teachers. This is a serious error and it will sour discussions on the Green Paper very

Ministers are holding talks with teacher unions on a Green Paper, which would introduce performance-related pay and offer substantial increases to teachers who match new standards. Doug McAvoy, general

would do nothing to resolve the recruitment crisis across the profession. "Three or four per cent doesn't deal with the issue. The Government is complacent about the shortages at a time when class sizes are worsening," he said.

Local authorities have already warned that a teachers' pay rise of more than 3 per cent will mean that teachers will have to be made redundant and

however, argue that the 5.7 per cent rise in what they are expecting authorities to spend this year is enough to cover the increases. The rise for teachers will not be phased. This year teachers were given a 3.8 per cent increase but its value was cut to 2.6 per cent over the year as 1.8 per cent was not paid until last month.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, believes that the big changes to the profession in the Green Paper, which proposes salaries of up to £35,000 for the best classroom teachers, will help to solve the recruitment crisis. Scotland's biggest teaching union vesterday angrily reject. ed a pay offer from local authorities calling it a "deep insult". Union bosses said the undisclosed offer on pay and conditions made by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities earlier this week was "wholly inadequate".

Road pricing runs into trouble with Blair focus group

road pricing policy has run up against fierce opposition from the Government's own mass focus group, a study revealed

Nearly 60 per cent of the 5,000-strong People's Panel oppose Labour's plans to cut traffic jams and pollution by ning popular backing for the charging motorists £2 a day to drive through town centres

The panel, which was set up by Tony Blair last year to make Whitehall more responsive to public opinion, was found to be overwhelmingly against increases in car parking charges and cuts in road building to fund public transport improvements. The depth of opposition to

Mr Prescott's key transport policies was revealed in a wideranging Mori survey of the panel's views, published by the Cabinet Office. The survey showed that the public were also highly suspicious of genetically modified foods, backed tighter controls on smoking in public places and wanted more directly elected mayors.

The panel, which is canbasis, criticised the Care in the Community programme and complained that most public services were secretive Political Correspondent

the Environment, Transport and the Regions' plans to raise extra funds for public transport that raised most objections, proving that the Government has a long way to go before win-

Contrary to expectations, the study found that 60 per cent didn't think that traffic congestion was a problem in their area and 78 per cent didn't believe that air pollution was a concern. More than half of those questioned were against cutting road building, threequarters opposed car park charge increases and four-fifths disliked petrol price hikes.

Mr Prescott sees road pricing and off-street car park charges as the best way of raising much-needed funds for public transport and the mayor of London is expected to raise millions through the schemes.

Yet the research shows that the poorest members of the panel fear Labour's plans more vassed regularly on a rolling than the middle classes, with nearly 70 per cent against. The shadow transport secretary, Gillian Shephard, said: "This re-

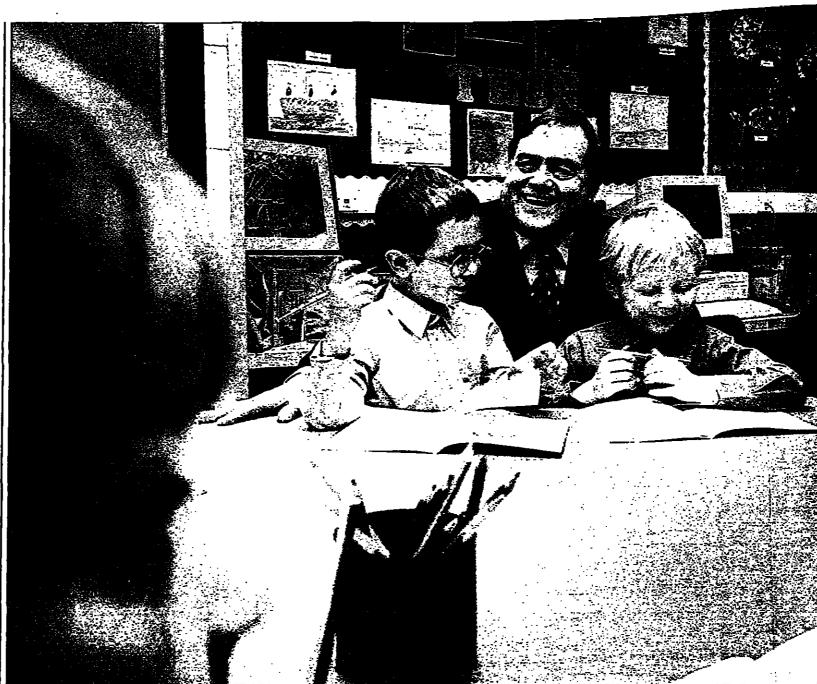
change a transport policy that is ill-thought out and highly

When asked about food safety, the panel's big concern was the long-term effects of pesticides and genetically modified crops, both ranking higher than BSE and food poisoning.

To respond to the worries over GM foods and other biotechnology issues, a series of workshops with the public is to be held by the Office of Science and Technology in coming weeks, officials confirmed. Half the participants wanted complete smoking bans in restaurants, with more than a third backing such measures for offices open to the public.

Cabinet Office officials claimed that the panel was a "world first" which used a representative slice of the population to keep ministers in touch with public opinion.

Jack Cunningham, Minister for the Cabinet Office, unveiled the figures with a pledge that the Government would listen to the concerns. "The panel has been established to seek people's view on improving public services. It is a unique development and will play an important part in shaping the search vindicates our own Modernising Government



about their workings. However stance. We shall continue to White Paper, which I plan to The Deputy Prime Minister. John Prescott, enjoying a warm welcome at a school in his constituency - the \$2.9m Victoria Dock Primary School in Hull - which he opened officially yesterday. It is the country's first 'private finance initiative' school

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Hague trapped by old guard and the kids playing politics

WITH THE Tories at an all-time low - according to a Mori poll this week - someone, supposedly close to William Hague. made a harn-fisted attempt to prepare the ground to dump oldtimers such as Gillian Shephard John Redwood. Sir Norman Fowler and Michael Howard The plan backfired spectacularly when Mrs Shephard, in an angry and emotional call to Mr Hague, demanded to know what was going on. He was forced to issue a statement denying the story. His room for manoeuvre. in any forthcoming summer reshuffle to freshen the team.

has been severely limited. Although there is a case for purging the Tory front bench of faces who remind the public of their unpopular past attempts at low politics. Mr Hague's henchmen were doomed once Mrs Shephard

geared into action. Accusing fingers pointed towards Andrew Cooper a member of the Danny Finkelstein mafia in Central Office, who runs Mr Hague's research department. Others saw the hand of the hated Tory vicechairman, Archie Norman, whose star is fading, although

this was vehemently denied. Either way Mr Hague is trapped by the old guard. John Redwood may be pointy-eared but his reputation for original thought and hard work is undeniable. He is shadowing his third Secretary of State at the DTI, and also claims part responsibility for the downfall of Geoffrey Robinson. Even the time-served Sir Norman Fowler emerged strengthened from the bloodletting. He managed a good speech opposing the age-of-consent Bill without appearing prejudiced against homosexuals.

Mr Hague appears to sideline his Shadow Cabinet, and operate through his kids in the back office. But this may change after Mrs Shephard's showdown. The solution is easy. Remove Mrs Shephard and but keep them in the Shadow endorsement to match Tony



THE WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

MICHAEL BROWN

Cabinet. Put them in Mr Hague's office where their experience, guile and common sense would sort out the kids playing student-union politics.

PADDY ASHDOWN'S decision to

allow a phoney leadership con-

test to drag on for several

months may not be such a bad idea after all The mood towards him in the Commons has changed dramatically with cheers of affection from all sides replacing the groans that previously

greeted his interventions at Question Time. Also, Liberal Democrat contenders jockeying for position will be attended at their every move by journalists watching for any hint of leadership campaigning. Otherwise humdrum party meetings in far-flung constituencies are boosted by the oxygen of publicity whenever the likes of Charles Kennedy Simon Hughes and Menzies

Campbell appear. Mr Hughes was seen deep in conversation with John Major in the Members' Tea Room. Whether this was an Sir Norman from the front line attempt to secure a rival

FIRST PRIZE for parliamentary speech of the week goes jointly to Labour's Tam Dalyell (Linthgow) and to the Tories' Sean Woodward (Witney). Mr Dalyell gave a brilliant

speech introducing a Bill under the 10-minute rule requiring parliamentary approval for military action against Iraq. He stressed the powerful argument against the futility of bombing, putting a convincing case for the proposition that, in circumstances whereby Britain is embarring on a protracted military operation with no clear end in sight. Parliament should be formally consulted.

Mr Dalyell pointed out that even Margaret Thatcher - no friend of his – agreed to and initiated the recall of Parliament to secure the endorsement of the house during the Falklands War. Mr Dalyell is dogged, persistent and unpopular. The trouble is he is usually right.

Sean Woodward made a similarly brave speech in favour of the age-of-consent Bill. Sadly he was joined by only five Tory MPs in the Division Lobby. making a mockery of Archie Norman's assurance at the end of last year that the Tory party is prepared to consider the selection of gay MPs. Speeches by Tories Edward Leigh (Gainsborough), Gerald Howarth (Aldershot) and Andrew Roebotham (Blaby) revealed that the party's heart is still rooted in anti-gay prejudice and hypocrisy.

FRANK DOBSON notched up a considerable victory over Nick Brown and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which has been dragging its feet over the new Food Standards Agency, Maff and its officials had tried to ensure there was no prospect of the Bill appearing in the current session.

The artful Dobbo went behind Brown's back to Tony Blair and pointed in bhint terms a speech".

Blair's rumoured backing of to the Labour Party manifesto Mr Kennedy is not yet known. commitment. Maff is still playing up and will doubtless continue to cause political sabotage by using the poll tax-style levy on food outlets, regardless of size, to generate opposition from small retailers.

> WHILE William Hague had another difficult week his health spokeswoman, Ann Widdecombe, saw her star burn ever brighter as she impressed journalists at a Press Gallery lunch with a rumbustious demand for an honest NHS debate. She suggested that neither party could satisfy the demand for healthcare solely from public funds.

Miss Widdecombe won gnarled hacks to her cause when she wowed them with a sense of humour rarely seen on Tory benches. She described an election meeting when she spoke to a crowd about her Christian principles. Unfortunately her agent had mislaid her leaflets entitled "Standing up for Christian Principles". She bellowed to the party official, in front of amused voters, "Come back, I haven't got any Christian Principles."

At one selection committee she was asked to describe her views on morality in the context of drinking, smoking and sex. "I do one in moderation; one I've never tried, and one I'd tax out of existence." Subtle attempts to match the answers resulted in party members resorting to the ploy of offering her unlimited drink and cigarettes.

Another time she was introduced to a meeting by a local party functionary as "someone who has impressed the party with her debatable qualities". Another time, an old buffer who had snored throughout her speech failed to wake up when she bellowed, "Wake up to the dangers of Tony Blair." The hapless fellow was then called upon to propose the vote of thanks but brought the house down when he thanked Miss Widdecombe for that dream of

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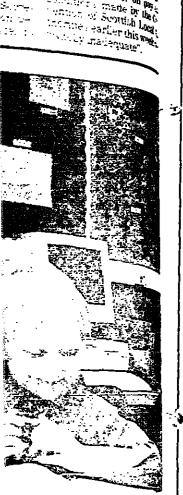
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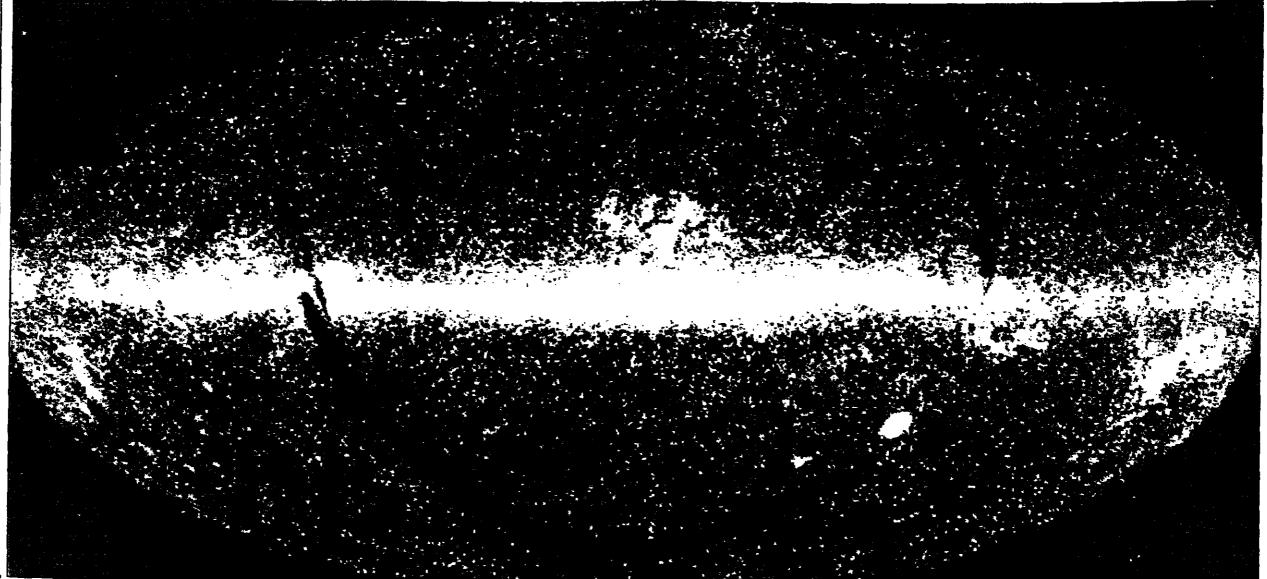
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THE INDEPENDENT



The cosmos as computers see it, plotting the pathways for space explorers of the future. The map, which charts the position of 15,500 galaxies, was 10 years in the making

A galactic map of our way to the stars

veiled a map of the cosmos or at least part of it - which future space explorers may look back on as the equivalent of the first "mappa mundi" drawn by early cartographers. "Some day it will be hanging from every kid's wall," said one of the team that produced it.

The map charts the position of 15,500 galaxies within a sphere 1,400 million light years across (with each light year spanning about six million million miles), far bigger than our galaxy, the Milky Way, which is just 200,000 light years in diameter.

It has taken 10 years to drawing the map was twofold: found it easiest to map shore-

ASTRONOMERS HAVE un- BY CHARLES ARTHUR **Technology Editor**

> compile what Professor Carlos Frenk calls "the biggest map of anything".

Yet despite its enormous size, the map covers only perhaps one ten-thousandth of the volume of the universe, which is expanding every moment, from the energy unleashed in the Big Bang 15 billion years ago, when it

partment at Durham University, said that the purpose of

15th and 16th centuries wanted to find out what was on the

The second reason is more subtle: "The pattern of galaxies that we see around us is like encoded information about the phenomena that happened in the very early universe, close to the time of the

Earth."

"By decoding that pattern, Professor Frenk, of the we can understand the fundaphysics and astronomy de- mental processes of that in-

The first cartographers

APPLICATION FORM

"One is the obvious one – we lines and large islands, and of data gathered by the now-want to explore, in the same avoided excursions into the defunct Infrared Astronomical want to explore, in the same avoided excursions into the way as the pioneers in the emptiness of oceans and "terra incognita".

Similar areas exist in space: galaxies, each containing billions of stars, often form clusters containing tens or thousands. These in turn group into "superclusters". which stand out from the celestial voids on the map like islands in a vast ocean.

"They really are voids," said Professor Frenk. "They are not completely free of galaxies but they are far rarer than in the superclusters."

The map is an interpretation

Satellite (IRAS), which orbited the Earth, relaying data about the temperature and apparent the cosmic map shows that distance of millions of celestial objects until its fuel ran out in

> That dataset has now been analysed by a team from the UK and Germany, to produce a three-dimensional map of the view from inside or outside our location in the universe. "When we first got this map

from the computer we were thrilled," Professor Frenk said. "We knew it was one of the great maps of history." IRAS could detect only mat-

these results could also help to solve the mystery of "dark matter".

By measuring the apparent movement of galaxies. astronomers have deduced that the universe contains more matter than we can see with astronomical instruments.

But what form it takes whether as subatomic particles, atom-sized black holes or simply as cold lumps of rock is not yet known. Understanding the process-

es of the Big Bang could in turn make clear what happened to all the matter that we cannot



The "mappa mundi" of 1570 by Abraham Ortelius: A guide for our seagoing pioneers

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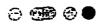
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Lloyd's to insure on theft of tunes

SONGWRITERS ARE taking out BY DAVID LISTER insurance to defend them- Arts News Editor selves against the cost of court actions alleging plagiarism.

A London firm of brokers has issued a policy that will yield up to 25m if a songwriter has to pay legal fees and damages arising from a plagiarism claim.

The firm, Robertson Taylor, which specialises in the music business. is not making public the cost of taking out the poliey: but it is understood to cost several thousand pounds.

John Silcock, the firm's managing director, said one leading British songwriter, whom he would not name, had taken out the insurance. "It's something songwriters in the UK have not tended to think about," he said, "but in a couple of years I think songwriters will be buying this

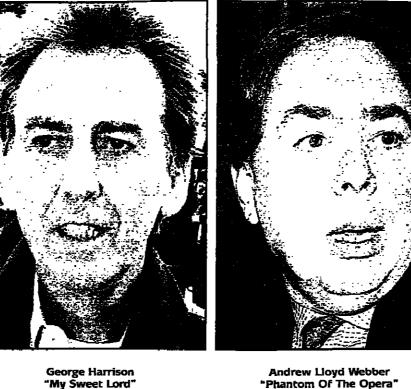
insurance as standard." He added: "There has been a rising tide of plagiarism cases. And we were approached by a leading lawyer for the music in-

dustry to set up this policy. The new policy is underwritten by four Lloyd's syndicates.

Copyright infringement claims arise fairly regularly, with many settled out of court. They have grown more com-plex in the digital age with the advent of "sampling" in which clips of older records are incorporated into new recordings, often in altered form.

This is often openly acknowledged, most famously with the Verve's "Bitter Sweet Symphony", which sampled bits of "The Last Time" by the Rolling Stones, But even in that case, court action is still threatened.

The issue was highlighted in the recent court victory by Andrew Lloyd Webber against an American composer who alleged he had used a tune of his in The Phantom of the Opera.



"Phantom Of The Opera" LORD LLOVD-WEBBER was accused by the somewhat lesser known Ray Repp. a Maryland composer of religious tunes, of lifting the title song to the musical from Repp's 1978 number "Till You". Last month, after years of argument, a US court ruled for Lord Lloyd-Webber. Legal fees in the case have already reached £1.4m. And, like the "Phantom". Mr Repp is determined not to disappear completely from the scene. He is launching an appeal against the decision.

Sir Tim Rice, writing in supnumber of claims of spurious port of his erstwhile collaboraplagiarism being brought tor, said: "In common with against successful composers. "The relationship of one many contemporary songwriters, I am becoming increasingly piece of music to another can be a complex subject. There are exasperated about the growing

A JUDGE ruled that the former Beatle's

1970 song "My Sweet Lord" had - albeit

unknown to him – adopted some of the

melody from "He's So Fine" a 1960s hit by

The Chiffons, and the two songs shared a

distinctive note progression. Harrison said

because The Beatles were the most imitated

wound on, he became obsessive and would

listen to tunes on the radio, trying to spot

at the time that it struck him as ironic,

group in the world. As the controversy

who had "borrowed" what from whom.

only so many notes in the scale, and it would require a judge or jury highly sophisticated in musical matters to know

whether a certain sequence of

notes is completely original or

legitimately based on a longstanding tradition, such as the "I have suffered in this way

"Bitter Sweet Symphony"

THE ORIGINALITY of the 1997 tune of "Bitter

Sweet Symphony" is not in doubt. But the

band included in the violin backing a sample

of the Rolling Stones 1965 track "The Last

Loog Oldham, the 1960s pop svengali who

discovered and produced the Rolling Stones.

is to sue the Verve's record company for at

Time". As a result, the Stones receive

at the hands of such un-

luctantly come to the conclusion that even the most ridiculous claims are not worth the potential costs of defending them."

Sir Tim's views were supported by a list of songwriting luminaries including Stephen

Sondheim, Sir Elton John, Sting, Barry Gibb of the Bee Gees, Phil Collins and Mick Jagger. But not every composer supports the Tim Rice stance. to Mr Berlin. Michael Wild, a musicals com-

Webber song "Jesus Christ Superstar", written 10 years later. And Wild points out that it is not easy in court cases to be the lesser-known composer.

He cites the example of one damages.

The judge had little sympaposer, claims similarities be- thy for the wronged party, stating that "although it had been tween his own composition, proved that the song was a di-"Gloria" and the Rice/Lloyd rect crib. the unknown composer would never have had the opportunity to exploit it in the way Mr Berlin had done". The man was awarded very small

case he has researched, one of

the strangest and least known

songwriting court cases of the

century. Irving Berlin was ac-

cused of having stolen some-

body else's work in the song

You're Just in Love" from the

musical Call Me Madam. The

unknown composer, had, in

fact, proof that at an earlier date

he had submitted his material

Spice Girls

"U Can't Dance"

GIRL POWER was not enough to save the Spice Girls from problems when they included a tune that sounded suspiciously familiar on their first album. It was reminiscent of an obscure 1970s record - "It's Just Begun" by the Jimmy Castor Bunch - and was heard in royalties. And the wrangling isn't over. Andrew the Spice track "U Can't Dance", it did not matter there is barely a Spice Girl fan in the world who was born in the Seventies. Minder Music, which part-owned the original. least £750,000 over claims that "Bitter Sweet decided to show some publisher power and Symphony" uses a theme composed by him in now gets 16 per cent of the song's royalties. 1963 for the Andrew Loog Oldham Orchestra.

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Dawkins: I'd let daughter be cloned

THE CONTROVERSIAL biolo- BY CHARLES ARTHUR gist Richard Dawkins has pitched into a fresh ethical object to his own daughter being cloned.

Though he admitted that the first child to be cloned "would be a very unusual individual and might be laughed at in school", he said these

were "not major problems". Professor Dawkins, of Oxford University, claimed that the process of cloning was really no different from the natural way in which a fertilised egg splits in the womb to produce twins.

"Anybody who objects to cloning on principle has to answer to all the identical twins in the world who might be insulted by the thought that there's something offensive about their very existence. Clones are simply identical

twins," he said. He told a BBC World Service programme to be broadcast tomorrow that he would be "delighted" if he could have a cherished pet cloned: "If I had a dog that I loved, and if this dog was getting old and might die

soon, to have a young clone of it would be perfectly delightful." Professor Dawkins achieved fame for his 1976 book The Selfish Gene - which proposed a gene-centred view of evolution - and for his attacks on religion and astrology.

Concern from religious groups

Technology Editor

debate by saving he would not has led in the US to bans on government funding for human cloning. Europe similarly has backed a ban on human cloning. pending ethical consideration.

Professor Dawkins has no such doubts. Asked on the radio programme Agenda if he would be prepared to clone his daughter, he said: "If I have somebody that I love, and if there was some particularly good reason to have an identical twin... that's all it is. There's nothing new about it."

Cloning takes the complete DNA from an adult cell and puts it into an empty egg cell. Under certain conditions that will grow into a full adult - as with Dolly the sheep, produced from the udder cells of an adult. Dolly's DNA is an exact match of that of her "parent".

But identical twins also have identical DNA, because they come from the splitting of one fertilised egg in the womb. Yet identical twins do not show identical behaviour, as several studies have shown.

"The only really deep reason people have for objecting to such a thing is that it offends some deep-seated sense what's been called the 'yuk' reaction. It's irrational," Professor Dawkins added. He also suggested human cloning could help childless couples.

Glow-worms put lights out in pub

A LANDLORD has been told he shire village of Coalport for 18 cannot clear a blocked drain years, said officials at Telford worms needs to breed. Roger Hotchkiss has been

forced to close his pub on occasions when torrents of rainwater have gushed into the bar. The problem is a nearby drain, but his council says machinery cannot be used to clear it because of a rare colony of glow-worms breeding on grass verges near the culvert.

that causes his pub to flood besite was environmentally protected. "I think it is quite funny. I don't want to see the glowworms exterminated. They are quite magical, and at night in the summer the grass verges

are lit up by the little creatures." The council plans to clear a ditch to help drainage but cannot until the worms have bred. It is in talks with English Nature. Mr Hotchkiss, who has run sandbagged his pub and keeps the Brewery Inn in the Shrop- a warv eye on the weather.

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THE INDEPENDENT,

ganised smuggling gang, which flooded Britain with cheap alcohol and cigarettes, has been enashed after a year-long in-Prnational operation by Customs investigators. More than 430 articulated lorryloads of top brands, in-

cluding Bacardi, Malibu, Stella Artois drinks and Winston cigarettes were smuggled into Britain. The chieflains of the gang had started buying yachts and villas in Spain from their millions when they were arrested.

A series of trials in which eight Britons were convicted has just ended. Customs are now apagainst several of the men to seize their assets.

ford, Kent, the proprietor of Carlton Transport, whose lorries smuggled the contraband.

Photographs of the tattooed and burly Carlton taken in Spain show a hard-faced man with a beer gut, a lurid taste in Hawaiian shirts, an ever present mobile phone in his hand.

Also central was Alan Brown, the 62-year-old chubby. bearded former mayor of Burnham-on-Crouch in Essex. Using the alias of James Heywood, his company, Melrose Trading, was responsible for shipping the contraband.

The third key figure in the racket was Malcolm Hamilton, 54, from Cold Norton, Essex, who eventually gave evidence for the prosecution after going the run to Turkey.

The racket started with dutyfree alcohol and consignments of cigarettes being illegally di-verted from the destinations stated on their customs documents. In a vast "carousel" operation, 40ft lorryloads started in England and drove to destinations in Europe before returning home fully loaded. At each point, high-value loads were picked up and dropped off to avoid tax and were sold on the black economy.

For a year, British Customs co-operated with European colleagues to smash the racket. More than 400 Customs officers finally swooped in simultaneous raids across the UK and Europe in late 1995.

Alan Reddrop, the officer in charge of operation, said yestenday: "This was very much an E acket rather than a UK one of e got a lot of help from our colleagues in Belgium, Spain and France."

There have now been two major trials at Birmingham Crown Court, the first time prosecutions have successfully

Customs

of £57m

been brought in Britain for crimes committed elsewhere in the EU. Other prosecutions have taken place in Europe.

rested several Cariton lorry

drivers and seized their loads.

On 12 September two Carlton

lorries were intercepted in

south-west France. One of the

British drivers was being ac-

companied by a Spaniard who

turned out to be a known to-

bacco smuggler. The vehicles

and their cigarettes were seized

was held in Brussels between

senior officials from the UK,

Spain, Belgium and France.

to unravel the smugglers' op-

Eight days later, a meeting

and the men arrested.

Evading tax on alcohol and tobacco is an increasing problem for Customs. They estimated that last year, revenue of fibn on tobacco and f220m on alcohol was lost to the Treasury. The UK has the highest duties in the EU and Spain has the

Customs inquiries into the fraud began in autumn 1994 when investigators became suspicious when quantities of an unusual, cheap brand of whisky called "Laird" began turning up on the streets of Liverpool and cities in the North-west. The whisky had been held in a bonded warehouse in Gloucester and was supposed to have been shipped to Morocco via Spain.

Then Customs became aware that the man behind the whisky operation was also looking for a bonded warehouse to plying for confiscation orders store Winston cigarettes for shipment to Morocco. This was odd, because the Moroccan At the centre of the racket government has a stranglehold was Alan Cariton, 48, from Dartover the cigarette trade, and over the cigarette trade, and Morocco is better known as a country from which to smuggle tobacco to Europe.

The Customs documents for the alcohol and cigarettes were stamped with false Spanish Customs marks showing the goods had been exported from Spain to Morocco. In fact, neither the lorries nor the booze ever left the UK. Instead, their loads were sold through cash and carry outlets throughout Britain.

The gang then added a twist to the swindle. This time cigarettes actually went to Spain but were never exported to Morocco. Instead, they were illicitly diverted on to the Spanish home market and sold cutprice. When Customs later went to check the delivery address in Casablanca where 20 lorryloads of cigarettes had purportedly been delivered, they found a small doorway at the end of a

narrow alley in Rue de Fes. The gang also began working on yet another elaborate scam. Lorryloads of beer and spirits were sent from the UK on real Customs documents showing the delivery address of a bonded warehouse in Antwerp owned by a Belgian company also involved in the fraud.

The alcohol was transported to Antwerp. But Carlton's lorries were either turned round with the same load and smuggled back to the UK, or the goods were transferred to another Cariton transport lorry the next day and smuggled back.

"Many consignments from Antwerp were being conveyed by Carlton's lorries to premises in the Midlands, North-east of England and Scotland," said Alan Reddrop. "The loads were sold through cash and carry outlets in those areas."

In August and September 1995, suspicious local Customs officials in Spain and France ar-



Malcolm Hamilton, a key figure in the racket, relaxing with girlfriend Susan Jagger, who was not involved



Alan Carlton, right, ringleader of the smuggling gang, whose members had started to invest their ill-gotten millions in the high life of southern Spain

ton's lorries were monitored as they moved to and fro across EU borders. By November,

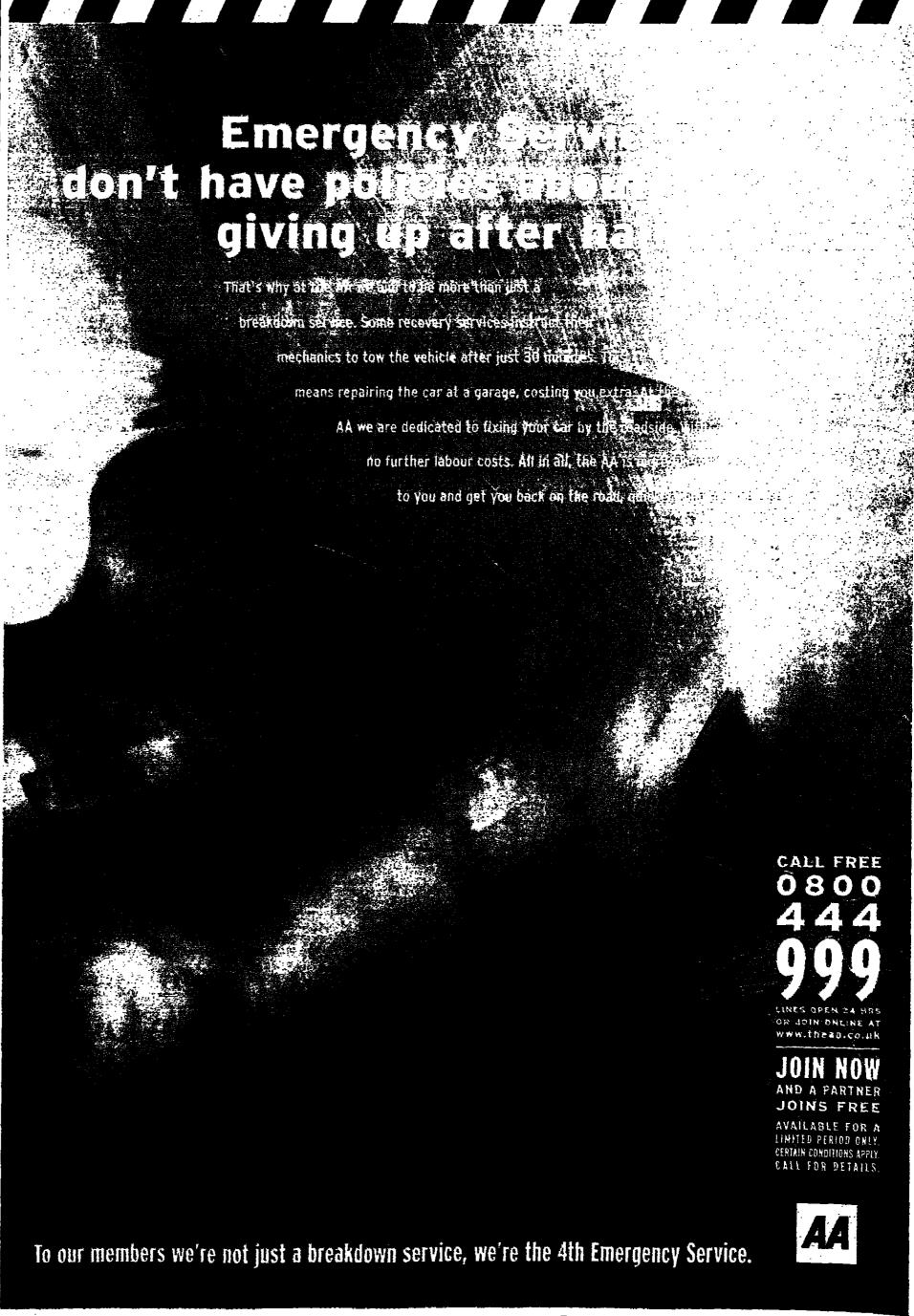
Customs felt they had enough evidence to bring prosecutions. Simultaneous raids were They agreed to work together mounted in Birmingham, Leeds, London and Glasgow, eration. All movements of Carl- and 25 people were arrested.

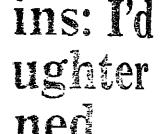
Customs believe the conspirators evaded duty on the 300 lorryloads on the carousel scam, a further 80 lorryloads diof east London, both admitted verted in the UK and 50 more loads of cigarettes sent to Spain. two charges of smuggling. Sav-There have been two trials

Searches were also carried out dealing with different elements Brown is ill and has yet to be of the fraud. Cariton denied sentenced. Hamilton will serve smuggling but was found guilty of the UK diversions . He was jailed for six and a half years. Brown and Francis Savage, 63,

age was jailed for three months.

the equivalent of three years. Four other lorry drivers, bribed with £600 cash bonuses for each trip, were given suspended sentences of 12 to 18 months for their part in divert-





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Horses of Dublin starve as floods hit grazing

THE SIGHT of horses grazing peacefully on patches of grass between the ugly concrete tower blocks in north Dublin has long been viewed as an aiternative tourist attraction.

Tethered on patches of common ground or allowed to wander freely around the city, they are a familiar sight to residents and were even immortalised in the film The Commitments, where they were shown being led into the lift of a multi-storey building.

The writer Roddy Doyle was forced to defend the scene after it was greeted with howls of derision by those who had never heen to the city. Dubliners hardly raised an eyebrow.

But the horses may not form part of the urban landscape for much longer.

Most of the animals belong to teenagers and young children who tether them on open imals from open land in west land in parts of the city. Now Dublin. Earlier, a further 42

By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

many horses and ponies have been left to fend for themselves, dying a slow death from starvation because their young owners simply cannot afford to

The constant downpours that have drenched the country since last summer have led to such severe flooding that there is a drastic shortage of fodder for both the horses, and for thousands of cattle on the

This has led to a sharp increase in the prices of what little hay and silage there is, and many of the young owners some barely teenagers - cannot ture ground to recover, reducafford the feed, because even a ing the harvest of available small bale of hay now costs

Last Thursday, horse wardens removed seven dead an-

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A youngster out riding on a west Dublin estate, one of the areas where horses have been slowly starving through a lack of grass and hay for them to eat

emaciated horses were removed by local authority staff from open land nearby, between Clondalkin and Lucan to the west of the city.

They had been forced to eat raw earth in their desperate hunt for food.

The lack of fodder has also and calves near Roscarbery in affected Ireland's dwindling number of livestock farmers. Last year's long spells of rain left little time for muddy pashay usually held by farmers. and affecting output in east coast areas that normally generate a surolus.

raise the money to buy sup-plementary fodder and many have left their cattle to fend for themselves by grazing at the side of the road. Last week, in a stark illustration of the problem, a desperate farmer

dumped 20 emaciated cows

Co Cork. The animals' identifying eartags had been cut off before the carcasses were abandoned, to prevent the health authorities

from tracing the owner. Gerard Buckley, the local veterinary officer, said there had been other cases of animal dumping elsewhere in Co Cork Falling meat prices have and warned of potential health meant that farmers cannot hazards. He predicted the prob- and nothing will grow. So we more than doubled in 12

lem would increase as the fodder crisis continues.

Irish farm organisations and animal welfare groups are becoming increasingly alarmed at the problem, and Ciaran O'Donovan, the chief executive of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA), was meeting officials from the Department of Agriculture yesterday to beg for emergency funds.

"We have had 25 per cent more rainfall than usual." he said. "Normally at this time of year the grass should be growing - but the rain is continuing. the ground has turned to mud with animals trampling on it

have a shortage of food left over from last summer and the prospect that no grass will grow until April or even May."

The ISPCA said that cattle were facing serious health problems because they had been left standing in waterlogged fields with no dry shelter to lie down and rest.

The problem is worst in pockets of the country where few farmers are able to afford those supplies that are on sale

Areas suffering the worst fodder shortages include west Limerick Roscommon and parts of Donegal. In badly hit areas the price of silage has

months. The crisis has led to an the poor weather and the coladditional IR£110m turnover of commercial animal feedstuffs, up by 30 per cent on the normal sales level since last

Teagasc, the Irish state farm advisory body, has played down suggestions of a national feed emergency and urged farmers with problems to contact it for advice.

A spokesman confirmed that between 40,000 and 50,000 of the Irish Republic's 149,500 farmers are now in difficulty. The total number of farmers has

dropped by 30,000 since 1995. Derek Cunningham, a spokesman for the Irish Farm-

lapse in beef prices has caused the problem. There are a lot of farmers who don't have the cash and they've held on to animals they can't get rid of," he said. "Some

people are finding it very difficult to get rid of poor-quality As a result many farmers have opted to sell far more cattle than usual since Christmas, leading to even lower

prices from meat processors. This has put them in a Catch 22 situation, squeezed between the prohibitively high feed prices and their reduced income as cattle markets yield



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Dobson gives GPs power over NHS

will switch control of the vast bulk of its £40bn budget from hospitals and health authorities to family doctors and nurses. The Health Bill revealed yesterday is to transform general practice into the driving force behind the NHS.

From April, 481 Primary Care Groups covering England will be established, replacing the discredited GP fundholding system, which covers half the population, with the eventual aim of giving the groups responsibility for all the care provided to their patients.

The Bill also establishes new mechanisms to prevent a repeat of the Bristol heart babies disaster by instituting checks on quality in every hospital, known as "clinical governance", and a hit squad called the Commission for Health Improvement to solve problems. Other measures include the

A SEISMIC SHIFT in the NHS BY JEREMY LAURANCE **Health Editor**

> creation of joint budgets between the NHS and social services, tough new rules to prevent drug company profiteering, and changes to the professional self-regulation of doctors.

At the heart of the Bill lie the plans for general practice. Initially, the Primary Care Groups, made up of about 50 GPs each, will advise health authorities on allocation of funds to hospitals and community services, moving by stages to take over their commissioning functions.

From April 2000, the first Primary Care Trusts will be set up. running community hospitals and district nursing services and offering a low-tech alternative to the hi-tech care of large hospitals. Patients will not notice the change at first, but the moves will accelerate the

eries and health centres. By giving family doctors and their professional colleagues control of the health budget, the range of services provided in surgeries and health centres

will expand. Hospitals will be-

come increasingly specialised

and there will be fewer of them. The question is whether family doctors and their colleagues have the will or the expertise to manage the vast sums involved.

Dr Jonathan Levy, a GP fundholder in Mill Hill, north London, said: "It is going to be awful. I am a doctor and I want to get on with treating patients. To get what you want you have to be on the committee but my main aim will be to ensure it doesn't take up too much time."

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday that the new freedoms for Primary Care Trusts would

trend to more care in GP surg- lead to the development of walk-in health centres on the high street, providing day surgery, health screening, physiotherapy and advice clinics. Money from the NHS modernisation fund will pay for complete computerisation of doctors' surgeries.

He said: "The changes we are making will take time. But [they] will totally transform how the health service cares for patients. They will deliver a systern moulded to the needs of the patient, rather than the current arrangements, which sometimes appear to be organised the other way around."

Department of Health officials said the aim of the Bill was to make the NHS faster and more convenient for patients, to guarantee standards across the country, and to ensure that healthcare and social services worked together to meet the

Amateur actress spoke of her hate for lover's pregnant wife

AN AMATEUR ACTRESS accused of murder confided that she hated her lover's wife only the Crown is contesting her plea. weeks before she killed her, a court heard yesterday.

Claire Brown told the jury at Chester Crown Court that her friend, Jenny Cupit, was upset when she learnt Kathryn Linaker, a deputy head teacher, was pregnant.

Mrs Cupit, a former hairdresser of Borrowdale Avenue. Warrington, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Mrs Linaker. 33, in front of her four-month-old baby at her home in Penketh on 17 April last year. The motherof-two, who is 24, has admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility but

BY HARRIET TOLPUTT

Mrs Brown met Mrs Cupit and her husband Nick at the Centenary Operatic Dramatic Society, where Mrs Linaker and her husband Chris were also members. Mrs Cupit and Mr Linaker began a relationship in January 1997. Mrs Brown told the court that Mrs Cupit had

confided in her about the affair. She said: "Jenny started crying, and she said Kathy was pregnant Jenny was crying a lot but she made it clear that she was seeing Chris. I said she should leave them to it."

Mrs Brown told Alex Carlile QC, for the prosecution, of a tele-tape of Mrs Cupit's interview

phone call just weeks before her death: "Jenny was upset, saying Hughes at Warrington police that Chris wasn't going to leave; that she hated Kathy because she had something that Jenny didn't. She said Kathy had a perfect family and that hers

Under cross examination, the witness told Adrian Fulford QC. for the defence, that she was worried about the effect the affair was having on her friend.

was breaking up."

The defendant's mother-inlaw, Barbara Cupit, told the jury

she believed the defendant had a split personality. She said: "Jenny was a very affectionate girl but could be very hurtful." The court then heard the

On the tape, Mrs Cupit said: "She [Mrs Linoker] said she hated me even if I wasn't involved with Chris. He paid me more attention than her

station after the attack

with Detective Sergeant Ian

"She came out of the kitchen with a knife, I grabbed the knife. I didn't mean it - I love her."

and Dombie

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Mrs Cupit described to the officer how Mrs Linaker became angry: "I told her to calm down, and that we would talk about it and sort it out. She was

really starting to scare me. She came at me with a small knife. "I burned and grabbed her, and cut my hand on the knife." The trial continues.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Nato may send 200,000 to Kosovo

AS RENEWED violence crupt-ed in Kosovo. Nato military chiefs stepped up detailed preparations for the politically charged option of sending ground troops to Kosovo. Up to 200,000 men could be required. depending on the outcome of negotiations between Belgrade and the ethnic Albanians on a settlement of the conflict.

Early yesterday, Yugoslay security forces killed 25 ethnic Albanians in a raid on a suspected rebel hideout. Later. onslaught. One Serb police-

BY KATHERINE BUTLER in Brussels

Yugoslav army tanks began uring at Kosovo Liberation Army positions near the village of Ljupce, about nine miles north of Pristina.

Panicking refugees, who had taken cover in Albanian homes in the area to escape fighting two days earlier, piled on tractors and horse carts to flee what they feared was an imminent

man was killed in the attack on the village of Rogovo, about 45 miles south-west of Pristina, near the Albanian border. International monitors confirmed the "shocking" death toll, which the Albanians claimed was brought about by an army as-

sault on a civilian bus. The raid occurred as the sixnation Contact Group called all parties in the conflict to an international conference next week at Rambouillet near Paris to negotiate a settlement with-

in seven days, granting "substantial autonomy" - but not independence - to the Albanian-majority province. If these talks succeed, then deployment of Nato troops on

the ground will be essential. Clearly, guaranteeing implementation of the deal will be a key part of the negotiations." a Nato official said. "Otherwise the agreement will not hold up, especially where you have a hell of a lot of weapons,

a proliferation of armed groups.

of human rights abuse." Germany yesterday joined

Britain and France in pledging troops to police an autonomy deal and Washington is edging towards acceptance of the idea. Even so Nato officials admit

that it is extremely difficult to

plan precisely for a ground

troop presence, when the shape of any political settlement is still unknown. It remains to be seen for example whether unarmed veri-

Security and Co-operation in Europe (Osce) would continue to have a role.

Three scenarios have been outlined by military planners. These suggest that 36,000 is the minimum number of troops required to monitor a ceasefire and peace agreement if the talks go ahead and produce the desired result. A 2,300 strong French-led Nato unit stationed in Macedonia for the evacuation of Osce monitors would proba-

this presence. If talks break down with no agreement on the political future of Kosovo but a ceasefire holds, then Nato planners estimate that 60,000 men will be needed - as well as an explicit agreement with President Milosevic on the terms of a ground troop presence. Nato

diplomats said. If talks fail and there is no ceasefire then 200,000 troops would be required to impose peace. This would drag Nato

fiers from the Organisation for bly provide the vanguard of into a protracted engagement and even full-scale war with the Serbs. Nato planners say troop deployment in this case would have to be preceded by an aerial bombing campaign to crip ple Serb defences.

It is conceivable but unlikethat Sfor, the 34,000 strong Nato troop presence in Bosnia would be "siphoned off" to boost the numbers in Kosovo. one Nato official said adding: "We will still need a strong presence in Bosnia."

Lewinsky's evidence to be on video

THE ONE-TIME White House BY MARY DEJEVSKY trainee. Monica Lewinsky. faces further questioning about her relationship with President Clinton on Monday, when she becomes the first of three witnesses called to testify in the under the rules passed by the Senate late on Thursday, however, the interview will take the form of a "deposition" - ques-

tioning under oath in private. Whether Ms Lewinsky or either of the other two named witnesses - Mr Clinton's businessman friend. Vernon Jordan, for Mr Clinton will be able to and his aide. Sidney Blumenthal - appear in the Senate in has been set aside for each, so person will be decided only after the depositions have been taken and made available to senators. Although the interviews will be videotaped, there generally satisfied the trial is no provision at present either them to be viewed by the appointment in the Senate and Senate or to be made public.

The outline arrangements for the continuation of the trial to a vote and that the vote had which stuttered through a series of acrimonious stalemates this week, envisage final votes also concerned about a plan for peachment against Mr Clinton - the one alleging perjury, the other obstruction of justice - on or before 12 February, the day before a congressional holiday for Abraham Lincoln's the Lewinsky affair before they

in Washington

making that date definite failed, however, as did their attempt to limit the duration of the depositions and to prevent the tapes renate impeachment trial, of the witnesses' testimony ever becoming public. All these highly contentious points will be subject to Senate votes once the depositions have been taken.

Each of the witnesses will be questioned by one of the House prosecutors, and two senators will preside. Defence lawyers cross-examine them. One day the deposition stage should be over by next Thursday, when the Senate is set to reconvene.

While the Republicans were would proceed, there was disin wider political circles that the arrangements had had to be put been on party lines. Behind the scenes, the White House was on the two Articles of Im- ending the trial that was gaining currency in the Senate. This would entail approval of a "finding of fact" statement, which would set out what senators believed to be the truth of birthday. Democrats' hopes of voted on whether to convict.



Soldiers attempting to prevent a mob from breaking into the Red Cross supply centre in Armenia, Colombia, yesterday

Rioting breaks out in Armenia

BY PHIL DAVISON in Armenia

FOOD RIOTS broke out in this earthquake-battered Colombian city yesterday despite the arrival of 3,000 army troops to maintain

Starving quake victims, including well-dressed housewives, old men and schoolchildren, stormed down city streets, shouting that they had seen none of the food pouring in

from around the world. Sturdy young men kicked the metal shutters of a downtown supermarket until they gave way. As word spread that troops were on their way, they threw food outside for the others to pick up.

People fought among themselves to grab anything they could find. Food was scattered across the street and the most desperate victims scooped up handfuls of rice.

When troops arrived, they were obviosly confused and reluctant to shoot. "We're not going to shoot our own people. We're here for their security." said an unidentified army colonel. "These people are desperate. They need food."

The soldiers' reaction appeared to isolate President Andres Pastrana and local politicians, widely criticised for failing to distribute several hundred tons of food that have Henry Romero arrived since Monday's quake.

Slap in face for young blondes as over-40 wins TV bias case

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

IF YOU have ever been infuriated by the formulaic TV news shows in the US, which pair a blandly handsome male of any age with a decidedly underforties blonde, this verdict is for you. A court in Connecticut has awarded Janet Peckinpaugh, who is now very much the "wrong" side of 40 but still almost blond, more than \$8m (f5m) in compensation after Peckinpaugh: Her grey she was dropped as a \$200,000plus-a-year news presenter.

The award, which is subject to appeal, is for lost earnings, hurt feelings and breach of contract. Within hours, the imnizations were reverberating American television, where one (female) executive defended the policy of pairing young



matter did not count

women with mostly older men as mirroring "the man and woman in the audience".

Ms Peckinpaugh had sued the WFSB network, which is an affiliate of CBS, on multiple counts of sex and age discrimination. She claimed that she had elected to remain at the sta-

down lucrative offers from national stations - because of assurances that she would be able to "grow grey" on the air. Unfortunately for Ms Peckinpaugh, this is not what happened. Her network turned out to be just like all of the others. One day in 1994, she was

called in to re-audition for her job, paired with a new male presenter. So were the two other female presenters. The tapes were shown to a "cross-section" of viewers, and Ms Peckinpaugh – the oldest of the three came last. Her contract was not renewed, and she was reduced to an early-morning presenter's job at a much smaller station on 20 per cent of her pre-

One of Ms Peckinpaugh's

tion in earlier years - turning two of the women presenters, so determined were they to keep the male-female pairing that pervades American TV Almost the only time two female presenters are paired is on public holidays (when the men seem to get the day off and on minor specialist stations, like the Weather Channel and Court TV. Even then, the male-

female pairing is more usual. Strictly speaking, the jury found WFSB liable for discrimination on the basis of sex. not age, but the two were so closely bound together that it. hardly mattered. The few women who survive on screen past their forties become interviewers or executives. The coveted role of news presenter goes to the men.

If he needs extra authority, complaints was that the station he is paired with a bubbly or never even considered pairing modest young woman.

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IN BRIEF

Denmark's only Rembrandt stolen TWO MEN overpowered an elderly security guard in

Copenhagen and stole two paintings - one a Rembrandt from an art gallery in Nivaa, 12 miles north of the Danish capital. The Rembrandt - Portrait of a Lady - dated 1632, was the only certified genuine work by the Dutch master

Life for killer who beheaded victim

A WHITE labourer in Independence, Virginia, convicted of burning a black man alive and beheading him, was jailed for life. Emmett Cressell, 38, apologised for the anguish suffered by the victim's family but said he was innocent.

Classes condemn homosexuality SUNDAY SCHOOL lessons on how homosexuals can "change" will be offered for the first time to adults at US Southern Baptist churches tomorrow. They are aimed at condemning homosexuality but not homosexuals.

Vow to trap Cape Town bombers SOUTH AFRICA'S Minister for Safety and Security, Sydney Mufamadi, vowed to end a wave of urban terror in Cape Town and catch bombers who injured 11 people in an explosion at

the city's main police station on Thursday. Levi's building in cancer scare

THE JEANS MAKER Levi Strauss has confirmed it abandoned part of its San Francisco HQ last October after seven women workers developed breast cancer. The Saddleman building was declared safe after an inquiry.

£1,700 a week for EU 'fraud busters'

vestigating fraud, nepotism and mismanagement in the European Commission will not go unrewarded, sources revealed

Each of the five-strong team will be offered £6,800 a month, plus allowances for travel and accommodation, with a daily allowance of £210 for staying in Brussels. A separate sum has been set aside for office space

The proposed spending of more than £100,000 will come from European Union funds, solit between the Parliament and the Commission.

The committee, made up of senior ex-judges and administrators, was difficult to assemble. Two of the three shortlisted Britons refused to serve and the other was replaced because he is related to an MEP. They have to produce a preliminary a one-off figure, or by results."

MEMBERS OF a committee in- By STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels

> report by 15 March, and finish the investigation by June. The committee was set up as a result of the bitter conflict be tween the European Parliament and the European Commission over fraud allegations.

> Parliamentarians were deflected from their threat to sack the entire European Commission partly by the promise of the new investigation. Yesterday the European Commission said it would waive the confidentiality rule for officials called by the committee.

> Roy Perry, Conservative budgetary control committee spokesman, said: "This committee may be a fig leaf, and could be a very expensive fig leaf. It is strange for them to be paid by the month, rather than

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A 'witch' is burnt in rural Pakistan

THE RAIN finally came to the BY JASON BURKE Punjab last week. Two days of in Chak 100P, Punjab downpour turned its red dust to mud. The fields are now spotted with rust-coloured pools reflecting a heavy, grey sky.

The land is fertile, irrigated by the huge canal system built by the British. Thousands of villages, still known by the numbers the Raj administrators gave them, sit like islands in a sea of wheat, cotton and sugar cane. To the east lies the Cholistan desert, known locally as the walking sands.

Two weeks ago, in the village of Chak 100P, an old, mad woman was burnt alive. The in- nosed her as paranoid schizocident barely made the local papers, let alone the national news. But the story of Muradam Mai is the story of modern Pakistan.

How Muradam Mai died is simple. She burnt to death, screaming, when villagers

straightforward. It is a mixture of Chaucer, Arthur Miller and Umberto Eco, touching madness and witchcraft, resurgent Islam, sexism, racism and an administration rotten to

Muradam Mai's nightmare began two years ago when, her family says, she started behaving "stupidly". Her moods swung from ranting anger to passivity. She also began disappearing for weeks at a time.

Last June, a doctor diagphrenic and referred her to a hospital in Labore, 300 miles to the north. The referral was a joke – her family could not even afford the bus fare, let alone medication. Her husband took another wife and her wander-

At 8am on 8 January, Mu-



Maduram Mai's handprints on the wall of the shrine from where she was dragged and burnt to death in the Punjab village of Chak 100P (right)

rounded by burnt paper. The villagers say she had been burning pages from the shrine's Koran, the Muslim holy book.

A group of men dragged her to the village square. Her fingers were cut off and her eyes put out, probably with a stick. Two men poured petrol over her and lit it. Other villagers then stoked the flames and tyres filled with kerosene were dropped over her. When the police arrived, around noon, Muradam Mai was very dead and a crowd of 70 gloating men

Chak 100P's village shrine sur- burnt the Koran, so we burnt her," they told officers.

As far as the police are concerned the reasons for the murder are clear. "These people acted in a regrettable way but are strong Muslims. We have identified the suspects and they will be brought to book," promised Magsood Ahmed, the local police chief.

The village elders agree that the case is straightforward. Chak100.P's headman, Ishfaq, said the woman died because the villagers "love Islam".

"It was the young men who did it," Ishfaq said. "Their re-

ligion is angrier than ours was at that age. But to burn the Koran is a terrible thing. I'm not saying what happened was good but such anger is difficult to contain."

However, it is not certain the paper Muradam Mai burnt was from the Koran at all. False allegations of Koran burning - a criminal act punishable by death under Pakistan's blasphemy laws - are a favourite ploy in family feuds or land disputes. They are also often made against ethnic or religious minorities. Last week neither the police nor the vil-

lage elders were able to produce the Koran Muradam Mai was supposed to have burnt.

Instead, according to some locals, Muradam Mai may actually have burnt only paper charms given her by a local boly man - a "pir" - in the hope that her mental health would be restored. Such rituals are rarely remarked on. But Muradam Mai was already a target.

"This woman was an outcast. She was hated and feared for supposedly casting curses or, at the very least, bringing bad luck on the village," said Dr Asiam Naru, a local teacher.

"The accusation of burning a Koran was an excuse for the lynching. It was a witch-hunt, like in Europe centuries ago."

According to Akram Bhatti. who owns much of the land around Chak 100P, there were other reasons for the animosity suffered by Muradam Mai. He says she had transgressed a number of basic codes; she was a single women, wandering alone and not properly in "purdah" - the strict seclusion of women traditionally followed in rural Pakistan. She was mentally ill. And she was also

ity - in a village of Punjabis. He says the police took three hours to come, despite their headquarters being only a 20-minute drive away.

But the crucial factor, said Bhatti, was that Muradam Mai had no one who was prepared to protect her. "She needed someone to look after her ... but no one came," he said.

In a society where the strong bully the weak and the weak prey on the even weaker. Muradam Mai's memory will last only as long as it takes the rain to wash a smudge of Soriaki - a local ethnic minor ash from the red Punjabi soil.

> The violence in Indonesia is not as widespread as some foreign



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There's a Great Deal going on

Religious gangs bring fear to Indonesia

By Diarnid O'Sullivan in Jakarta

ON THE tropical Indonesian island of Ambon, people live in fear of Christian and Muslim gangs who have murdered as many as 200 people in a week. The violence is the latest of several riots. and fears are growing that religious and racial tensions are reaching breaking point.

For the past week people have been pulled from cars by gangs and stabbed. Murdered for having the wrong religion on their identity cards. Police say that at least 65 people have been killed, with another 62 in hospital. Unofficial totals go up to 200.

An uneasy lull has now settled although there are daily reports of violence on nearby islands. Only a handful of shops are open. People leave their homes only to look for food.

In Ambon city epicentre of the killing, soldiers armed with ageing rifles guard every street, but admit, privately, that they cannot stop the violence if it flares up again.

"It is quiet, but it's not under control. Violence could break out at any time. There's a feeling of vengeance because so many people died," says a Dutch journalist in Ambon, once a base for Holland's spicetrading empire. Most Ambonese are Chris-

tians, and many of the victims were Muslim immigrants from the nearby island of Sulawesi. Most of Indonesia's 200 mil-

lion people are technically Muslims, though many are not

past houses-cum-shops gutted in riots

than some other big Asian countries with a mix of religions, such as India and Pakistan. Yet since the fall of President Suharto last May that reputation has started to unravel.

There have been smaller communal riots in recent weeks on other Indonesian islands, including Timor, Sulawesi and Sumatra. Seven people, most of them Ambonese gangsters, were butchered by Muslims in Jakarta in November It isn't clear yet if revenge for these deaths is a factor in the violence. The police say that hoodlums

news reports suggest. Most areas of this vast archipelago are still peaceful. But the problems are likely to get worse. The first free elections in 40 years are due to be held on 7 June, and many people fear bloodshed as more than a hundred parties jostle for support. An economic crisis has driven millions of people into poverty and street crime is rising. Many people say that elements of the old Subarto regime are stirring up the riots because

> The former president is being investigated for corruption. He still has many loyalists in the army, the bureaucracy and the criminal underworld

count for misuse of power.

they fear being called to ac-

Abdurrahman Wahid, an influential and outspoken Muslim leader, went to see Suharto on Wednesday night at his Jakarta mansion. I asked him to use his influence to stop his followers from causing a commotion which could disrupt the elections, including the Ambon case and

riots in other areas," he said. It was not clear what answer he got. Much depends on what the armed forces do. The soldiers, divided and unpopular, have been unable to stop the riots. Their commander, General Wiranto, is both a cautious reformer and a protege of Suharto.

"I think we are nearing the point where Wiranto will have to make a break with his past and clamp down on Suharto's old guard," says Marzuki Darusman, who heads the govern-

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THE INDEPENDENT

Misery engulfs millions as Africa seethes with more wars than ever

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH

MORE COUNTRIES in sub-Saharan Africa are currently involved in wars than at any time in the 40 years that have passed since they began to gain independence.

It was easy, during the Cold War, to see Africa's crises in terms of East-West allegiances. with a soupçon of Francophone-Anglophone rivalry thrown in.

But now the causes of conflicts within and beyond the artificial borders traced by colonial powers are different and more base. Millions of Africans are displaced and thousands are dying in wars due to greed, a lust for power, ethnicity, and the poisonous combination of a braindrain and widespread illiteracy.

Democratic elections seem to make little difference; registration or ballot-counting procedures are often shams.

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The West ponders international debt relief, because it pauperises people. But as one delayed passenger at Dakar said while he watched a stream of heads of state in private jets fly in for a summit: "We are delayed for them and the only thing the world's banks want to do is relieve them of their debt so they can buy more planes." In Sierra Leone, from which

the Nigerian-led Ecomog force may withdraw once it has secured the capital, Freetown, a weak, democratically elected government is threatened by army rebels and thugs who are backed by Charles Taylor. the Liberian president.

Mr Taylor, a warlord turned democrat, is paranoid about coups and greedy for Sierra -eone's diamonds. The small Vest African country has been at war, on and off, since its first democratic elections in 1996.

Burkina Faso has sent mercenaries to fight with the rebels in Sierra Leone. The forces resisting the Ecomog effort to secure President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah have links to rebels in Casamance, the southern Senegalese region that may have oil, and Guinea-Bissau which shares its ethnic make-up.

Ethiopia and Eritrea are once breached in May last year.

by Jonas Savimbi, which controls much of the east of the country and its diamonds. For more than 20 years, Unita was backed by South Africa and the US against the Soviet-supported MPLA now in government. Two weeks ago, the United Nations said it would pull out of the war-torn country, sparking fears of a forthcoming humanitarian disaster when aid cannot safely be

tions of power in the capital, Kinshasa. The conflict has

rekindled Hutu-Tutsi hatred;

in Burundi this week. 185 peo-

ple were killed in a Hutu area. Zimbabwe, whose President

Robert Mugabe supports Pres-

ident Kabila, is bordering on

chaos, with rumours of a mili-

tary coup.

In Angola, the government of

Jose Edouardo Dos Santos this

week conceded that it had lost

Mbanza, gateway to the oil

town of Soyo, to rebels from

Unita - the rebel movement led

delivered to the population. Ghosts of the Cold War, diamonds, oil, colonial boundaries, arms dealing and ethnicity seem all to fuel Africa's disasters. But there are success stories in Africa, too. At any given time, out of the continent's 600 million-odd people, the majority are at peace.

Former French colonies. though poor, have achieved a measure of economic stability through the CFA franc - tied to the French franc despite a devaluation in 1997.

South Africa will have elections later this year and Nigeria. the most populous country in Africa, is apparently dismantling military control. Uganda is winning the war against Aids.

Next week, President Nelson Mandela of South Africa will deliver his last state of the nation address before handing over to Thabo Mbeki.

There are doubts over Mbeki's vision for the future but he has made what he calls the "African Renaissance" a centrepoint of it. The concept of a renaissance may be European, but it is all Africa has. And it may just result in a solution

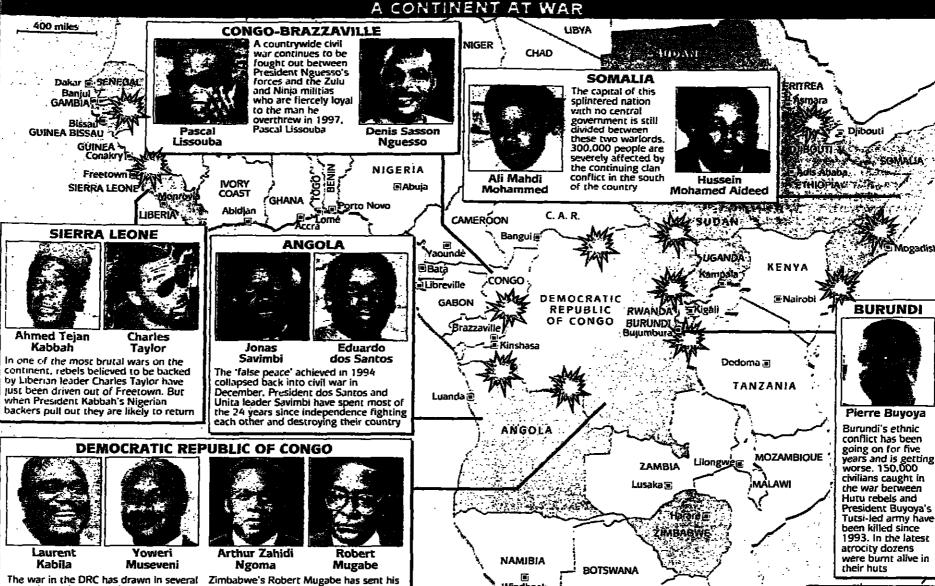
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again at daggers drawn over a border dispute the Organisation of African Unity has failed to

countries and remains the most

Uganda's President Museveni is lending support to the rebels fighting to overthrow President Kabila, while

Eritrea's President, Isaias Efwarki, insists on a comprehensive redrawing of the colonial border. But Ethiopia wants Eritrean troops to withdraw to In the Horn of Africa, a borderline that its troops

Somalia has not had a government since 1991 when the former dictator, Mohammed Siad Barre, was overthrown after 21 years. Ethnic warlords have since carved up the country. At least 100,000 people have died and the United Nations has given up on the region.

army in to combat the rebels – whose

leader Arthur Ngoma has split from his one-time allies. Mugabe's war effort is wreaking havoc on Zimbabwe's economy

leading to rumours of attempted coups

In Sudan, John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation

Army launched an attack in 1983 against the Islamic government, seeking autonomy for African Christians and animists in the south. The latest truce is about to expire and no plan exists for a referendum on a north-south division of the

In Congo-Brazzaville, fight-

the Cobras, soldiers loyal to ratic Republic of Congo (DRC). General Denis Sassou N'Guesso, who came to power 18 months ago, and his Ninia challengers - militias loval to former leader Pascal Lissouba. The fighting is not linked to the war in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The wars involving Rwanda, ing resumed this week between Burundi, Uganda, the Democ-

INSURANCE

the Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Angola have become interlinked. The reason is that the DRC leader, Laurent Desire Kabila - who overthrew Mobutu Sese Seko two years ago - and his enemies have used old rivalries and new fears for their own ends.

Mr Kabila has Angola, Zim-

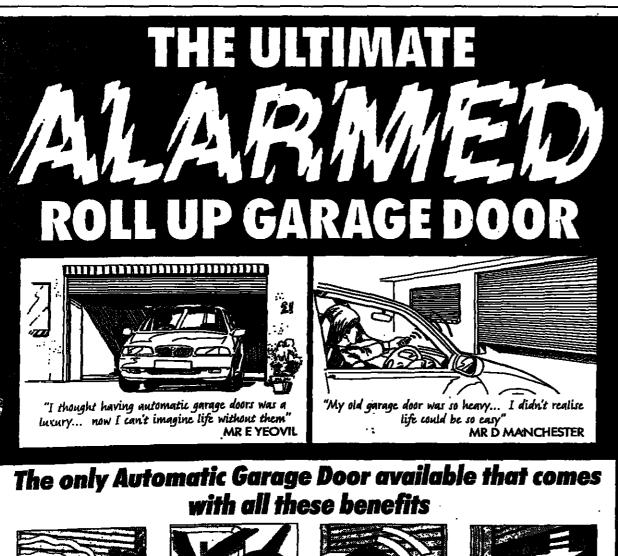
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babwe and Namibia on his side against rebels - backed by the other neighbouring countries who believe he is mismanaging DRC, a country the size of Western Europe.

Mr Kabila ousted Mobutu with the help of the country's ethnic Tutsis and their cousins from Rwanda. But last August. feeling threatened by them, he to the continent's problems.





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FROM ACROSS the Middle By ROBERT FISK East, there has come an intriguing - not to say astonishing - chorus of approval for Crown Prince Abdullah of Jordan. In the pages of Babel-produced by the one editor you would never contradict, Saddam Hussein's son Oudai, readappointment is "one of the King's most intelligent political decisions since the start of the

In the Gulf, the United States Secretary of State, Madeleine Al-

"magnificent job" in arranging for his succession.

In Jerusalem, a former israeli defence ministry official, Alon Pinkas, said Abdullah was an "excellent student" in Amerers have been told Abdullah's ica. Mr Pinkas should know; he taught Jordan's future king at Georgetown university.

But when Saddam Hussein. Madeleine Albright and the Israelis all sing the same tune, bright talked of King Hussein's the Israelis were prepared to

Crown Prince Abdullah (left) is congratulated in Amman on his appointment by Abdulateef Arabiat, leader of the Islamic Action Front Reuters

send a killer squad to Amman to assassinate a Palestinian leader after the peace treaty with Jordan, why should they be any more prepared to respect the integrity of Abdul-

Indeed, one of the first meetings that the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, held to discuss Abdullah's succession included Ephraim Halevy, head of the Mossad intelligence service. Israeli officials were quot-

ed as saying they would be behind the Crown Prince "in the short term".

And if Saddam Hussein was prepared to send his killer squads to knock off the Iraqi opposition in Amman, why should his son suddenly wish to improve relations with the Hashemite dynasty that gave political asylum to President Saddam's son-inlaws? Could it be that the Iraqis have suddenly remembered King Hussein's former friendship with Saddam? Or are they anxious to ensure Abdullah does not allow the United States to use Amman as a base to overthrow Saddam's regime?

Closer study of Mrs Albright's tribute shows she hoped the transition to Abdullah was "one that does not cause problems". What sort of problems, one wonsistance to his leadership from Palestinian Jordanians? Or resistance by Crown Prince Abdullah to pressure from Washington? It is one thing to be a "friend" of America - another an American president. What if Abdullah shows as much independence of spirit as his father did in 1991, when he refused to support the West's military campaign against Irao?

There is, in fact, a disturbing irony in the fact that while British aircraft fly the skies of Iraq's "no-fly" zones, a half-British prince is preparing to never have been appointed." Jordan can only be re-empha-It is not just his English accent Jordanian airstrip.



King Hussein of Jordan

grandfather on the throne. propped up his father with military leaders (until King Hussein grew tired of them) and can now claim a half-share in the next king's blood-line. It's as well for the Palestinians of Jordan perhaps 65 per cent of the country-that Abdullah's wife, Rania al-Yassine, is Palestinian.

Most Arabs, it should be said, have accepted the new crown prince's appointment, not with enthusiasm but with the kind of weariness born of knowing that they will never have a say in the appointment of their leaders (and only occasionally in their overthrow). "America decided it should be Abdullah." one of Lebanon's more cynical politicians said vesterday. "Without Washington's approval he would

King Hussein's original journey to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota last year, the Americans were trying to persuade him to allow the principal tract opposition groups to use Amman as their headquarters for the future

overthrow of Saddam Hussein. At the time, there was much talk in Jordan of a move eastwards by the Jordanian army into the Iraqi desert, where the Jordanians (sponsored by the Americans) would set up a 'sanctuary" to which Saddam's dissident legions would supposedly flock before setting out on a crusade to destroy the Iraqi tyrant.

Crown Prince Abdullah knows all about dissent - and how to suppress it. His special forces units were used to quell riots in several Jordanian towns last year. Is he then the man the Americans might now choose to open up a corridor into Iraq? No wonder Babel lavished

praise on Abdullah's appointment. This is not the time for Saddam Hussein's son to offend the son of King Hussein. And no wonder Mr Ne-

tanvahu-while claiming to pray for the "miracle" of King Hussein's return to health - described his country's peace with Jordan as "one of the cornerstones of Israel's national security". He knew when King Hussein's anger would break -Netanyahu was lucky to get his bour. The colonial history of ican fighter-bombers are based Jordan without a show-trial in - albeit with less publicity than Amman - but cannot guess sised by Abdullah's succession. in the Gulf - on at least one big when Abdullah's patience | peared in central Athens and might become exhausted.

'Model's body is found in swamp

BRIE

By THEODORA TONGAS in Athens

THE GREEK boyfriend of a slain American model, 31-year old Julie Scully, was arraigned on Thursday on charges of premeditated murder after he had led police to Scully's body, which was retrieved from a swamp near the northern city of Kavala

George Skiadopoulos, 24, has confessed to strangling Scully on 8 January, then burning her remains before hacking off her head. He stuffed the body inside a suitcase and threw her head into the sea.

He had tried once before to kill her, but was stopped by his family, an investigator claimed yesterday. His claim came as medical examiners conducted an autopsy on the charred and headless remains of Scully.

"A violent suffocation, which at this time I cannot confirm was a strangulation," said coroner Filippos Koutsaftis of the cause of death. He added some uncertainty remained about the strangulation because her neck was severed.

Private investigator John Kolivas, hired by Scully's family, alleged Skiadopoulos had also tried to choke her at the end of last year, but was stopped by his mother It was the second reported choking incident involving Skiadopoulos and members of Scully's family. While visiting Mansfield last summer, Skiadopoulos allegedly choked Scully's mother during an argument, and police charged him with simple assault. He was berred from contact with her and allowed to return to Greece.

Scully went to Greece with plans to marry Skiadopoulos, a petty officer aboard a cruise ship whom she met on a Caribbean trip while still married. But she had a change of heart and told her boyfriend she was returning home to New Jersey because she missed her three-year-old daughter.

According to police, that caused Skiadopoulos to fly into a rage and strangle Scully, known in New Jersey as a bikini-ciad "Page Six Girl" for the

Skiadopoulos later concocted a story about how she disap-

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23.000	- £5,999	6.65%		6.40%	
£100	- £2,999	6.15%		5.90%	
		CURRENT	CURRENT	FROM 1 FEB '99	FROM 1 FEB '99
Monthly Save:	!	Gross Rates*/	NET RATES**	Gross Rates*	NET RATES**
Including Fixed I	Bonus Interest of 4,15%)	Gross AER***	(illustrative)	Gross AER***	(illustrative)
[20	- £200 per month	6.95%	5.56%	6.70%	5.36%
Dunfermline D	Direct †				
	+000,002	6.75%	5.40%	6.50%	5_20%
225,000	- £49,999	6.55%	5.24%	6.30%	5.04%
£10,000	· £24,999	6.25%	5.00%	6.00%	4.80%
25,000	- £9,999	5.75%	4.60%	5.50%	4.40%
£2,000	- £4,999	4.85%	3.88%	4.60%	3.68%
Premium Plus	ntt Issue 3				
(Including Bo		•			
_	+000,000	6.65%	5.32%	6.40%	5.12%
£50,000	- 199,999	6.45%	5.16%	6,20%	4.96%
£25,000	- £49,999	6.05%	4_84%	5,80%	4.64%
£10,000	- £24,999	5.55%	4.44%	5.30%	4.24%
£5,000	- £9,999	5.05%	4.04%	4.80%	3.84%
£2,500	- £4,999	4.55%	3.64%	4.30%	3.44%
Premium Sha	res				
	£100,000	5.65%	4.52%	5.40%	4.32%
£50,000	- £99,999	5.45%	4.36%	5.20%	4.16%
£25,000	- £49,999	5.05%	4.04%	4.80%	3.84%
£10,000	- £24,999	4.55%	3.64%	4.30%	3.44%
£5,000	- 699,92	4.05%	3.24%	3.80%	3.04%
£500	-£4,999	3.55%	2.84%	3.30%	2.64%
Dunfermline	Gold	- 			
	£50,000+	4.80%	3.84%	4.55%	3.64%
£25,000	- £49,999	4.45%	3.56%	4.20%	3.36%
£10,000	- £24,999	3.70%	2.96%	3.45%	2.76%
£5,000	- £9,999	3.35%	2.68%	3.10%	2.48%
£2,500	- £4,999	3.10%	2.48%	2.85%	2.28%
£500	- £2,499	2.80%	2.24%	2.55%	2.04%
£100	- £499	0.75%	0.60%	0.75%	0.60%
HeadStart Ac	count (for young savers				
£1 or more	, <u>,</u>	3.25%	2.60%	3.00%	2.40%
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HPREMIUM PLUS Bonus interest of 1.00% gross p.a. paid if no more than one withdrawal of less than £10,000 is made each year and the balance of the account does not fall below £2,500. INTEREST PAYMENT

Where interest on the Premium Shares Account or Dunfermline Direct is payable other than annually the above rates are reduced by 0.50% gross. On Premium Plus Issue 3 the above rates are reduced by 0.25% gross.

Dunfermline TESSA (Third, Fourth and Fifth Issues - closed)		CURRENT Tax Free Interest****		
- £2,999	5.85%		5.60%	
TACCOUNTS	CURRENT Gross Rates*/ Gross AER***	CURRENT NET RATES**		FROM 1 FEB '99 NET RATES**
	7.50%	6.00%	7.25%	5.80%
	6.35%	5.08%	6.10%	4.88%
£7,000+	5.50%	4.40%	5.25%	4.20%
£100-£6,999	6.25%	5.00%	6.00%	4.80%
Bond (Closed Lawe)	6.80%	5.44%	6.50%	5.20%
	£3,000+ £3,000+ £2,999 T ACCOUNTS £7,000+ £100-£6,999	### Tax Free Interes #### £3,000+ #### £3,000+ ##### £3,000+ ##### £2,999 ###### £1,000+ ##################################	### Company	### Tax Free Interest**** Tax Free Interest**** Tax Free Interest

5.20% Bank Rate Plus (Closed Legge) The rates of interest payable on Treasurer's Deposits and Special Deposits for Charities and Exempt Pension Funds match Dunfermline Gold.

Details of interest rates (or all other investment accounts (including other closed issues and fixed rates) are available from branch offices. †Dunlermline Direct transactions are by post from the Society's Head Office.

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"Gruss interest means the rate of interest payable before the deduction of income tax at the rate specified by law ("the specified rate"). The current specified rate for basic rate tax payers is 20%. Please note you may be liable to pay tax at a higher rate depending on your tax position. ** Net interest is the rate of interest which would be payable after deduction of income tax at the specified rate. ** AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year. ** Tax free interest is the rate of interest payable where interest is exempt from income tax. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any) a claim may be made to the inland Revenue for repayment of cax. For details and a registration form for payment of interest gross, please see Inland Revenue leastlet IR110. Current interest rates are available from our 24 hour rate line Tel: 01383 627780 and on our web site address below.

Head Office, Caledonia House, Carnegie Avenue, Danfermline KY11 8PJ, Tel: 04383-627727

Gross Rates* Net Rates** Gross AER*** Gross Rates* Net Rates**

DUNFERMLINE SCOTLAND'S BUILDING SOCIETY

Envoy hands out home comfort as crises erupt

JOHN GREENGRASS, Britain's consul in Delhi, has not exported any elephants in the past seven days, nor lit any funeral pyres, but the week has had its usual share of unpredictable distractions.

Monday was meant to be a day of rest, but he came in to cover for a sick colleague. Before long, four different crises had erupted around him, First, his office was occupied by a sobbing woman whose marriage to an Indian had broken down, and who could not think of

anywhere else to go for advice. She was still there, still distraught, when an equally upset young man turned up. He said he had been lured into a grimy quarter of the city and poisoned with mind-altering drugs administered in a rum and Coke. The plan, he believed, had been to knock him out then steal his possessions. But, dazed and staggering, he managed to escape in an autorickshaw taxi, and came straight round to the High Commission, still hallucinating Mr Greengrass parked him in a neighbouring room.

BEFORE HE could deal with either of these cases, London was on the phone urging him to go at once to Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana, north of Delhi: three young British backpackers had been arrested there over the holidays after apparently having a row with a policeman who demanded baksheesh. Although an investigating magistrate had suspended the officers who had carried out the arrest, one of the youths was still in jail on a drugs charge, and the parents had had a dreadful time

Mr Greengrass's challenge now was to persuade the poboys could go home.

WEEK IN THE LIFE THE BRITISH CONSUL, DELHI

The conversation was interrupted by a knock on the door, it was the honorary consul for Lithuania who had come round for a quiet word in Mr Greengrass's ear about a ticklish visa problem. He was going to Britain for a visit, and he wanted to take his maid along. "Domestic servants," Mr Greengrass intimated, "are always a problem."

In the Indian context, a quiet word in the ear of a highly placed friend is exactly what is required to solve such problems. Britain, however, does not work in this way, at least not reliably so, and Mr Greengrass had to give his diplomatic acquaintance the gentlest possible brush-off. But before he could return his attention to the original problem ~ the desperate wife, divorce the has a list of solicitors) or marriage counselling? – the honorary consul and the hallucinating tourist had somehow got into a surrealistic argument in the corridor and Mr Greengrass had to pull them apart before they smacked each other.

JOHN GREENGRASS wears a shirt of constabulary blue, has thinning hair and a bushy moustache and in every other respect is about as ordinarylooking an Englishman as you could hope to find east of Suez, Several times every month he sallies forth from the sanitised surroundings of the places in Asia.

There are eight British prisoners in Tihar jail in Delhi, lice to drop the case so the and, according to Mr Green- of them are on remand. Due grass, "probably the worst. to the Bleak House-like slug-



John Greengrass: I love

Conditions in Tihar go from the dire to the unacceptable." he said. The men's cells are too small to contain a bed, and there is no other furniture either. The lavatory is a hole in the corner. The light, a bare bulb in the ceiling, is on day and night. The conditions for the two British women are even worse, "The women's jail," Mr

Greengrass explained, "is what used to be the maximum security wing of the men's jail." Now three women are squeezed into a cell built to house a single prisoner in solitary confinement

Fortunately, the prisoners are allowed to stay outside the cells all day and, when the whims of the guards permit. Mr Greengrass and his Indian assistant, Dinesh Kumar come laden with comforts sent from home - blankets, High Commission in Delhi to hats, tracksuits, toiletries, visit some of the most terrible peanut butter, cheese, books.

ALL THE prisoners but one which is the biggest in India are inside for drug offences; all

gishness of the Indian legal system, practically all cases drag on for years; and drug offences are non-bailable by

"The thing that hurts the prisoners more than anything else is the constant delays, Mr Greengrass said "By law. there have to be hearings once every two weeks, but often for one reason or another, cases are adjourned over and over again. One guy has had no proper hearings for nearly five months." But when the case finally

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comes to trial, prisoners can find that the nightmare ends quite fast. Arresting officers often make mistakes in procedure - one of Mr Greengrass's prisoners was arrested on the aircraft that was about to take him out of the country - and a good lawyer can often get the case thrown out in no time.

"All those whose trials have concluded have been acquitted," he said. "It seems to be a pattern. They spend two years in jail on remand, there's a quick trial, they are acquitted and deported."

MR GREENGRASS, who said: "I love this job, I think it's brilliant," has lit two funeral pyres down at the Yamuna river (one to the chanting of Hare Krishna devotees), scattered ashes in a Himalayan cemetery, facilitated the export of several elephants to Woburn Safari Park and helped Mark Shand to become the first person since India's independence to get a visa to visit India's troubled north-eastern border with China. But the blankets and peanut butter for the sorry inmates of Thar Jail will probably be recorded as his most valuable acts of mercy

PETER POPHAM

THE INDEPENDENT

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BRIEFING

BUSINESS

BT gets go-ahead to bid for Securicor's Cellnet stake

Russian failure hits BP Amoco

SHARES IN BP Amoco fell yesterday when Sidanko, a Russian oil producer in which BP has a 10 per cent share, said it faced bankruptcy proceedings. Sidanko, Russia's sixth-largest oil producer, is being sued by a creditor company, Beta-Eko, for unpaid debts. The company, which was hard hit by the slump in oil prices, has struggled to pay off its debts because of oil export restrictions imposed by the Russian government.

A spokesman for BP Amoco, which bought its stake to access the Kovykta gasfield in eastern Siberia, said the company was still viable in the long term. BP Amoco shares fell 14p on a rising market to close at 822p.

Marston denounces Wolves



Evershed, the regional brewer embroiled in a bitter bid battle with Wolverhampton & Dudley, issued its final defence document yesterday denouncing its rival's strategy as "inefficient" and backward." Marston. chaired by Michael Hurdle (pictured), has responded to Wolves' £288m bid with a £317m counter-offer, It

urged its shareholders to "ignore W&D's empty rhetoric. look at the grim reality of their record." However, the group failed to increase its own offer, leaving shareholders to decide between the two strategies.

BMW denies chief is under threat

THE QUANDT family which controls German carmaker, BMW, yesterday denied reports that Bernd Pischetsrieder, chief executive of the company, was under pressure to quit because of the poor performance of Rover, its British subsidiary. The reports surfaced as Mr Pischetsrieder explained in his annual letter to shareholders why Rover sustained losses last year estimated at up to DM1bn (£360m). He said that Rover's competitive position had deteriorated.

STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100	DOW JONES	MIKKEI
900	9400	14600
890	9300	14400
880	9200	14200
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FTSE 100	5896.00	23,50	0.40	6195.60	4599.20	2.74
FTSE 250	5024,20	65.30	1.32	5970.90	4247.60	3.2B
FTSE 350	2792.40	15.10	0.54	2969.10	2210.40	2.82
FTSE All Share	2695.94	14,80	0.55	2885.52	2143.53	2.87
FTSE SmallCap	2131.20	16,10	0.76	2793.80	1834.40	3.80
FTSE Fledgling	1188.20	4.70	0.40	1517.10	1046.20	4.56
FTSE AIM	834,90	4.00	0.48	1146,90	761.30	1,19
FTSE Eurotop 100	2786.59	16.37	0.59	3079.27	2018.15	2.13
FTSE Eurotop 300	1214.89	7.11	0.59	1332.07	880.63	1.99
Dow Jones	9343.38	56.64	0.61	9647.96	7400.30	1.64
Nikkei	14499.25	156.93	1.09	17352.35	12787.90	1.00
Hang Seng	9506.90	145.94	1.56	11926.16	6544.79	3,70
Dax	5159.96	63.55	1.25	6217.83	3833.71	1.67
S&P 500	1272.02	6.30	0.50	1278.05	923.32	1.25
Nasdag	2494.86	16.90	0.68	2477 <u>.</u> 47	1357.09	0.27
Toronto 300	6690.90	22.25	0.33	7837.70	5320.90	1,59
Brazil Bovespa	8512,86	528.30	6.61	12339.14	4575.69	7.39
Beigium Bei20	3411.59	5.68	0.17	3713.21	2568.46	2.08
Amsterdam Exch	532.09	-6.89	-1.28	600.65	366.58	1.85
France CAC 40	4251.80	52.13	1.24	4404.94	2881.21	1.90
Milan MIB30	34672.00	226.00	0.66	39170.00	24175.00	1.18
Madrid Roex 35	9878.60	46.60	0.47	10989.80	6869.90	1.88
trish Overall	5180.01	-4.77	-0.09	5581.70	3732.57	1.46
S Korea Comp	571.43	-0.04	-0.01	651.95	277.37	1.04

SHORT STERLING	UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND
5 63	4.22	5.13
561	4 18	5.12
5.59	4.14	5.11
5.57	410	3.10
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Australia ASX 2893.80 16.60 0.58 2902.90 2386.70 3.17

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Index	3 mosth			Yr chg	10 year	₹r chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.82	-1.75	5.50	-2 00	4.11	-1.96	4.17	-1.89
US	4.97	-0.68	5.06	-0.66	4.70	0.86	5.13	0.71
Japan	0.48	-0.30	0.48	-0.26	2.07	0.01	3.07	0.40
Germany	3.07	-0.47	2.98	-0.B2	3.64	-1.44	4.59	-1.09

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	at 5pm	Change	"Yr Ago		at 5pm	Crische	777	
Dollar	1.6461	-0.09c	1.6404	Sterling	0.6075	+0.03p	0.60	
Euro _	1,4472	+0.090	1,4079	Euro	1,1368	-0.21c	1.16	
Yen	190.99	-¥0.64	206.57	Yen	116.08	-¥0.47	125.	
£ index	100.80	+0.20	105.00	5 index	105.60	+0.00	109.	

OTHER INDICATORS								
	_	Chg	Yr Ago		Indet			Next figs
rent Of (11.09	-0.03			115.40			
iold (5)	286.25	2.00	302.38	RPI	164,40	2.80		Jan
3014 (5)			£ 15	Ause	Rates	6.00	7.25	

r (\$)	5.24	0.15	6.16	Base Rates	6.00
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TO	URIS	T RATES		
	2,5106	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.2	
Australia (\$)	19.21	Netherlands (guilders)	3.076	
Austria (schillings)	56.42	New Zealand (\$)	2.926	
Belgium (francs)	2,4098	Norway (kroner)	12.0	
Canada (\$)	0.8094	Portugal (escudos)	278.7	
Cyprus (pounds)	10.46	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5,9899	
Denmark (kroner)		Singapore (\$)	2.653	
Finland (markka)	8.3785	South Africa (rands)	9.578	
France (francs)	9.1771		232.42	
Germany (marks)	2.7459	Spain (pesetas)	12.49	
Greece (drachma)	450.00	Sweden (kronor)	2.2608	
Hong Kong (S)	12.28	Switzerland (francs)	55.72	
ireland (punts)	1.0994	Thailand (bahts)	522573	
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Source Thomas Cook

received the Government's goahead to take full control of Cellnet, the mobile phone operator in which Securicor has a minority stake, in a deal which

could be worth up to £4ba. The Department of Trade and Industry said it would lift a restriction preventing BT from increasing its 60 per cent holding in Celinet, the country's second-largest mobile phone company: The DTI said it would clear the ownership ceiling, imposed 16 years ago to limit BT's dominance of the UK market, provided the phone com-

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

pany did not use its own cash to subsidise Celinet. In a second victory for BT, the

DTI also announced that the fixed-line operator would be allowed to bid for the new "third generation" of hi-tech mobile phone licenses to be auctioned in the summer.

BT said it had "no immediate plans" to bid for Securicor's 40 per cent stake, but industry experts said the DTTs decision opened the way for a tough round of negotiations over the sale. Securicor said it was not in

was "prepared to consider" the sale of the stake "at a price that fully reflects the value of the in-

vestment to its shareholders". City analysts predicted that the two companies would be locked in a lengthy battle over the price of the stake, which Securicor acquired for just £4m in 1983. They said the final price could range between £2.5bn and £4bn depending on which

firm gained the upper hand. James Ross at ABN Amro said Cellnet, which has 4 million subscribers and is second only to Vodasone in the fast-growing

WORLD

ECONOMIC

talks with BT, but added that it UK mobile market, could be of Cellnet, chief executive Sir worth up to £12bn. That would make Securicor's stake worth around £4.8bn, although BT is expected to push the price down as it is the only credible

> The lifting of the ownership ban sparked a rally in Securicor shares. The stock soared 12 per cent in early trade before ending 7 per cent up at 631.25p on expectations that the security firm would net a large profit on the sale. BT rose 3.5p to 930.5p.

Industry experts said that, although its 60 per cent stake gives BT management control

Peter Bonfield would like to have full ownership of the business. They said he needed to strike a deal to respond to the competitive threat posed by the merger between Vodafone

Some experts believe BT will use vesterday's clearance to bid for third-generation mobile licenses - known as UMTS - as a bargaining chip over Cellnet. The decision effectively enables BT to choose whether to bid for the new hi-tech franchises, which would allow it to feed Internet and video links through

and Airtouch of the US.

mobile phones, on its own or through Cellnet. A BT spokeswoman said the company was still reviewing its options and would not take a decision until the DTI decided on the rules for

A decision by BT to bid on its own would leave Cellnet stranded as it would prevent the company from offering the new services through its network.

"Reading between the lines, it is pretty obvious that BT is saying: Unless you do a deal at a decent price, we'll do UMTS on our own," a leading telecoms

WOR

FOR

ECONO

Help us, US asks Japan and Europe

in Davos, Switzerland

LAWRENCE SUMMERS, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, yesterday strongly rejected claims that the US economy is riding for a fall, saying he believed growth momentum in the US would be continued, albeit with ups and downs.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, Mr Summers said the US government's strong fiscal surplus made America well prepared for any shocks to come.

However, he conceded that the strong US economy couldn't support the restrof the world indefinitely, and he insisted that growth in Europe would be a prerequisite for long-term health in the world economy. "The world economy cannot fly for long on one healthy engine," he said. "It needs three healthy engines, including Europe and Japan!."

The strength of the US economy was underscored by data showing that growth surged at the end of 1998. The economy grew at an annualised rate of 5.6 per cent in the fourth quarter. the fastest in two years and well above economists' forecasts.

At a conference dominated by questions about the sustainability of the US boom, Mr Summers's comments were echoed by Al Gore, the US Vice-President

Mr Gore said the Clinton administration would press for debt relief for poor countries and repeated calls for Japan to boost growth to promote economic recovery at home and abroad. He added that in the administration's fiscal year 2000 budget proposal, to be released next week, President Clinton would push for significant debt relief for poor countries to help Leading article, Review page 3

ease the pressure of falling commodity prices and recession in some parts of the world. "We need your help in deal-

ing with this global economy," Mr Gore said, warning that the US could not continue to be "the importer of only resort". Some estimates see the US trade deficit rising to more than

\$300hn this year, the biggest ever. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, warned world leaders not to allow planned reform of the world's financial architecture so that it can act more effectively in crisis recognition and resolution fall by the wayside.

He urged the Group of Seven to act on the reforms at next month's summit in Germany so they could be put in place by the end of the year. Among the proposals are measures for greater transparency in emerging markets and a common code of standards. Proposals from Stanley Fis-

cher, deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, that the IMF be transformed into a lender of last resort to provide unlimited, though conditional, funds to crisis-hit countries, drew a cool response from the US. Suggestions that the dollar,

euro and yen be made to trade within bands to avoid damaging swings in value, also drew a cool response. Mr Summers said he agreed more stability in exchange rates was desirable, but he was scentical that more co-ordinated statements from G7 leaders would help. He thought it dangerous "to use monetary policy to achieve an international objective".

Wim Duisenberg, president of the European Central Bank, said the objective of European monetary policy was price stability, not exchange rate targets.

Jeremy Warner, page 19



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Eisuke Sakakibara, Japanese Deputy Finance Minister (left), and Lawrence Summers, US Deputy Treasury

Rate cut pressure grows as euro slides on deflation fears

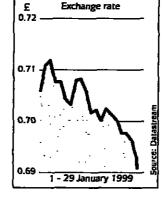
By Lea Paterson

THE EURO slumped to its weakest level against both the dollar and the pound yesterday on news of a further fall in European inflation.

Prices in the 11 eurozone countries rose by an annual rate of just 0.8 per cent in December, with inflation in some core economies close to zero, according to data from Eurostat. Economists said there was now a real risk of deflation - or falling prices - on the Continent.

After falling steadily against the major currencies over the past week, the euro fell to new lows of \$1.13 and 69.09p. The figures coincided with

renewed pressure from Europe's politicians for further



£ TO THE EURO

cuts in interest rates ahead of next week's meeting of the European Central Bank. Speaking at the World Eco-

nomic Forum in Davos, Heiner

Flassbeck, Germany's deputy finance minister, said: "For the first time in the last 50 years we are facing a slowdown in the industrialised world where we are quite close to zero with the price level. We are facing some kind of deflationary danger about which we have to think." Mr Flassbeck argued that cuts in interest rates were the best way to tackle the defla-

tionary threat. Neil Parker, treasury economist at Royal Bank of Scotland.

said: "There are building expectations of a rate cut from the European Central Bank." The recent weakness in the

new European currency has surprised the City, where it was widely believed that the euro would prove stronger than ster-

ling. Analysts said growing signs of slowing activity in the eurozone countries, particularly Germany, lay behind the fall in the value of euro.

Vesterday's data confirmed that inflationary pressures on the Continent were virtually non-existent. The 0.8 per cent rate for the eurozone economies was well below the 2 per cent ceiling set by the ECB.

Inflation in Germany is now running at 0.4 per cent - also a record low - while inflation in France is even lower, at just 0.3 per cent.

The majority of economists expect the ECB to react to the deflationary threat by cutting interest rates again in the first

Rival bids on the cards as Electra rejects 3i's offer

3i YESTERDAY said its 700p-ashare takeover offer for Electra Investment Trust, aimed at forming a £5bn venture capital company, had been rebuffed amid reports that other parties had expressed an interest in placing rival bids.

stake in Electra Fleming, the investment manager of the trust. "It is true that a proposal which in our view fully values the company has been rejected. Right now talks are deadlocked. The rejection came at the end We await a response to a formal of three weeks of boardroom communication made with Electra by our chairman," said haggling over the value of Electra's assets and its 50 per cent a spokesman for 3i.

By Andrew Verity

sider whether to raise the offer, which values Electra at the value of Electra's assets.

put the net asset value of Electra at 685.8p a share. At yesterday's close of 682.5p, that puts the shares at a slight pre- raised offer or an alternative

Following yesterday's rejec- mium to net asset value. Elec- bid, shares in Electra fell just tion, 3i executives met to con- tra says its own calculations 1.9 per cent yesterday, still 20 value its assets at well above 700p a share. The two also dif-£1.235m. 3i has so far hinted that fer on Electra's claim that its this represents a premium to stake in Electra Fleming is worth £30m, a figure built into Independent analysts have the asset calculation. The figure includes a goodwill element of more than £25m.

As traders anticipated a

per cent higher than their value before the bid was disclosed. Observers yesterday said Electra was "playing a risky game" because of the potential shareholder anger if the deal fails to materialise. Before news of the talks, shares in the trust

were trading at a 20 per cent dis-

A source close to Electra said the trust would restructure in any event. "I think it is generally accepted at Electra that life is never going to the the same again. It probably doesn't have a very long shelf life. If it isn't 3i, it's going to be someone

else. The ball's in their court" Speculation yesterday centred on GE Capital, the US financial services giant.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON NEW YORK

A VOLATILE session ended with Footsie sporting a 23.5 points gain at 5,896. Much of the action was among smaller cap shares with the mid cap index climbing to its: highest level since August.

Securicor led the blue chips with a 42.5p surge to 631.5p. The Government's decision to give BT more flexibility over its mobile phone operations produced speculation it would buy Securicor's 40 per cent Cellnet stake to take full control.

Derek Pain, page 19

UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG

growth figures boosted stocks in opening trade, but a sharp bout of selling, which one trader said fitted the pattern of computergenerated selling, erased the gains and sent the Dow skidding to losses of more than 50 points. It later rebounded, climbing 0.9 per cent to 9363.7.

The U.S. Commerce Department said GDP in the fourth quarter rose 5.6 per cent on an annualized basis, sharply beating the Wall Street consensus.

● TOKYO

A WEAKENING yen and overnight gains on Wall Street helped the benchmark Nikkei 225 index end up 1 per cent at 14,499. Fuji Bank's decision on

Thursday to make Yasuda Trust & Banking its subsidiary, and news that Daiwa Securities was mulling launching pension plans with financial firms in the Sumitomo and Mitsubishi groups, raised hopes that Japan's ailing financial system was heading towards stability. Mitsubishi Motors rose 5 per cent on alliance speculation.

HONG KONG

STOCKS REBOUNDED after Thursday's sell-off, with the Hang Seng ending up 1.56 per cent at 9,506, but traders warned it could come under pressure next week as the reporting season begins. Activity in index futures suggested the index would either fall below 9,000 or breach 10,000 in February.

HSBC led the rise, climbing 2.39 per cent. Developer Sun Hung Kai climbed 2.8 per cent on rumours it was talking with Disney about a theme park.

SAO PAULO

THE EMBATTLED real tumbled to new lows ahead of crunch. meetings between the government and IMF officials, who arrive in Brazil this weekend. The real fell for the seventh successive day, and breached the psychologically important barrier of 2 reals to the dollar to hit a low of 2.105.

The Bovespa index rose 6.9 per cent to 8537.7 in afternoon as investors bought shares that were cheap in dollar terms. The 8 per cent drop in the real came despite the central bank hiking interbank rates.

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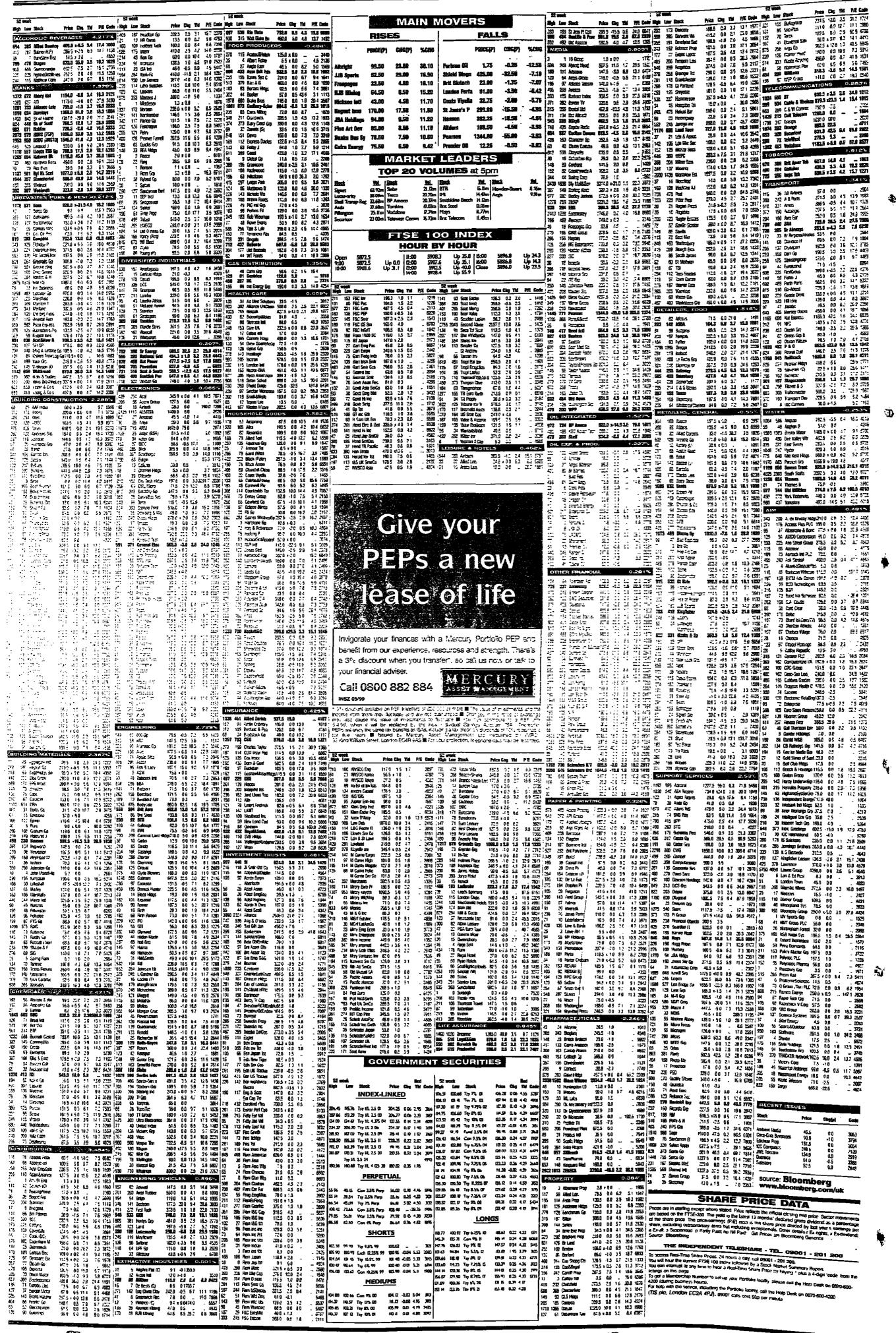
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THE INDEPENDENT
Saturday 30 January 1999



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THE INDEPENDENT,

Good reasons for US to be cheerful

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IN RECENT YEARS there has been a consistent theme running like a thread through the annual meetings of the World Economic Forum. Amid the analysis of European Monetary Union, globalisation, the advance of the Internet into all areas of business and the emerging markets crisis, there has also been a growing air of American tri-

And with good reason. After seven years of uninterrupted low inflation, the US economy is still booming. Its technology leads the world, its entrepreneurs have galvanised business across the globe with their invention and energy, un-employment is at a record low and Americans as a whole are now more wealthy than ever.

However, this time round there is a quite tangible change of mood. Plainly, the Americans themselves are as gung ho as ever. But virtually everyone else I have talked to here this year, with few exceptions, thinks the American economy stands at an exceptionally difficult and dangerous crossroads. Few are prepared to defend US stock price valuations at their present levels, and many believe Wall Street has become a financial bubble comparable in size and scope to





IN DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

that which engulfed Japan in the late 1980s. Even among the most optimistic, there is anxiety. Among the pessimistic, there is real fear.

It is hard to argue against these concerns. They are well founded. The US has a huge and growing trade deficit. In a world becalmed by recession and sluggish growth. the US economy has become the only dynamo of any significance. To achieve this, American consumers have been spending like there is no tomorrow. In so doing, they have been supporting the rest of the world. Without the US, the position Russian meltdown tried its

in Japan, the rest of Asia and Brazil - already bad enough - would be even worse.

This spending binge has been supported by a buoyant stock market, which has made Americans feel much wealthier than they perhaps really are. However, the money to support such spending has to come from somewhere. The truth of the matter is that it is being financed by ever higher borrowing, much of it from the rest of the world. For how much longer can this

merry-go-round be sustained? Not much longer, seems to be the gen-eral view here, although naturally you don't hear it from American polcy makers. Were it not for the deflationary recession in parts of the rest of the world, US interest rates would already be rising steeply to choke off the inflationary effects of the boom, many believe. As it is, Alan Greenspan is risking his reputation as he works out his remaining years as chairman of the Federal Reserve by keeping an ultimately doomed boom alive. The longer it goes on, the more severe and damaging will be the fallout when it ends, it is argued.

So far, however, nothing has managed to puncture the bubble. The



damnedest, and for a while it looked as if the near collapse of Long-Term Capital Management might deliver the goods. Even Brazil has so far failed to shake confidence on Wall Street fundamentally. Stock prices have defied the doornsters. By rights. the dollar too ought to be falling by an order of magnitude to compensate for the trade deficit. It has not.

So is this going to be the year when things go pear-shaped? That's what many are saying here. What puzzles me, however, is that if so many professional pundits and economists think Wall Street is heading for a serious fall, why has it not already done so?

One possible reason is that private investors in the US have been taught by experience that it pays to buy on the dips. Every time there is a setback they wade back in. believing that bargains like these has acted to buoy their confidence by cutting interest rates, and when damage to financial markets, organising a rescue.

many supposed experts here seem to be of that persuasion - this is only delaying the final reckoning. I'm not convinced by any of this, plausible though it seems. Just think back to the way the world looked from Davos this time last year. Who then would have predicted that industrial production in South Korea would within 12 months be virtually back to pre-crisis levels? How many people then would have expected monetary union in Europe to get off to an entirely glitch-free start? Who would have predicted that the American boom would continue unabated into the final quarter of the year? And finally, how many forecasters outside the US would have had the Dow still riding high at 9.300?

On the other side of the coin, of course, hardly anyone would have thought the scale of the disintegration in Russia possible. Most of us would have expected Japan to be in slightly better shape by now

won't be on offer for long. But it is also because the Federal Reserve ed a crash, few could have foreseen the degree of strain the world financial system was subjected to, LTCM threatened general systemic or the volatility we now accept as a way of life.

Even so, I think many of those According to the bears - and who observe events from outside the US are missing something here. There is no rule of economics that says business cycles must have only a certain finite length. In recent history, business cycles have not so much died of old age as been murdered by the anti-inflationary policies of the Federal Reserve. Outside stock prices, there is very lit-tie sign of inflationary pressure, either in the US or elsewhere in the world. Meanwhile, the Federal government has during the good years recharged its fiscal cannon in a way that gives unprecedented scope for reflationary policy if and when the time demands it.

There is something else that tends to be forgotten in constantly comparing Wall Street now to the Tokyo market of a decade ago. The US government has no target for the stock market, and other than the general prosperity of its people, it has no interest in maintaining it at inflated levels. On the whole, it doesn't engage in market manipu-

Japan, and there is no systemic reason why the market needs to be kept high. By contrast with Japan, American business and markets are highly transparent, and the US government rightly attempts to promote private sector enterprise by simply not getting in the way.

The upshot is that there has rarely been a better time to be in business in the US, nor has the opportunity for new business development ever been as great. Whole industries and markets are being radically reordered by the electronic revolution. For the first time companies and individuals can, through the Internet, have a global presence without the need for a global footprint: without the buge paraphernalia of worldwide distribution and marketing which has traditionally maintained global organisations.

American entrepreneurs and wealth creators have seized the opportunity presented by these changes as no others. This is why Wall Street is high. Is it too high? Almost certainly. Will it burst any time soon? Probably not. Even if it does, will the US economy keep up the high-growth momentum of re-

IN BRIEF

Hopes raised for Vaux buyout

VAUX, the Sunderland pub group planning to sell its two breweries and 350 tenanted pubs to concentrate on Swallow hotels, yesterday agreed to grant a four-week exclusivity deal to a management buyout team led by Frank Nicholson, the younger brother of Vaux's chairman Sir Paul Nicholson. that the management team - which is committed to keeping open both the Sunderland brewery and the Ward's brewery in Sheffield - will clinch the deal, which could be worth over £80m. Vaux profits in the first 16 weeks of the current year are almost 5 per cent ahead of last year but below target, the AGM was told.

Diageo sells

DIAGEO'S Pilisbury unit is selling six non-strategic hrands to US company B&G Foods for \$192m, including Underwood meat spreads. **B&M** baked beans and Joan of Arc canned beans. A buyer is still being sought for Pet Evaporated Milk, which was put up for sales at the same time last July.

Boots in Holland

BOOTS the Chemists is to spend £49m opening a further 45 stores in Holland. Boots has been testing five healthy and beauty stores in Holland for 18 months. Boots also plans to extend its chain of stores in Thailand from 19 to 50 by the end of this year and move into Japan later

Rank job

RANK GROUP, the struggling Butlins-to bingo leisure company, has found a replacement for Andrew Teare, who resigned as chief executive three months ago. Mike Smith, chief executive 3 of Ladbroke's betting and gaming division, will take up the position in April Mr Smith, 52, has been at Ladbroke since 1994. Rank shares fell 7.5p to 200p.

Nokia profits up

PRE-TAX profits at Nokia surged 74 per cent last year, to 14.6bn markka (\$2.8bn), while sales jumped a record 51 per cent to 79.2bn markka leaving it in position to become the world's number one mobile phone maker, the Finnish group said yesterday. Nokia's results outstripped those of its two key rivals – Motorola, whose 1998 sales eased, and Ericsson, which posted 10 per cent sales growth on Thursday.



City expects Snell to trump £4bn Lucas bid

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE CITY is expecting the chief executive of the US engineering group Federal-Mogul, Dick Snell, one of the most ambitious figures in corporate America, to trump the £4bn agreed takeover of Lucas Varity by its US rival TRW with an increased offer next week. Industry analysts believe

that Mr Snell, famous for his audactous and highly-leveraged bids, will increase Federal-Mogul's tentative £3.6bn offer for the car parts and aerospace group to up £4.2bn, triggering a bitter bid war for

Speculation of a clash between the two US engineering giants came as Lucas announced the closure of two plants in Swansea and Cincinnati with the loss of over 1,000

In another blow to Lucas, the company's chief executive, Victor Rice, came under fire from a union leader who warned that his plans for an American deal could put the company's £4bn pension fund at risk.



However, financial experts were focused on Mr Snell's next move. They predicted that the Federal-Mogul boss, who has promised to achieve his trumpeted "Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG)" of \$10bn sales by 2002, would raise its failed 280p cash-and-share bid to around 310p per share.

The move would force TRW one of the biggest car parts manufacturers in the US - to raise its 288p cash offer. "Dick Snell is serious about Lucas. I BT Alex Brown

Mr Little added that Mr Snell would probably increase the cash element of the offer in a bid to appease Lucas's UK shareholders who do not want to hold US shares. Other analysts noted that a

bold bid would be in line with Mr Snell's past strategy. Since joining from rival engineer Tenneco in 1996, the 56-year-old has spent over \$5bn on takeovers. growing Federal-Mogul from a medium-sized player into an industry giant with expected 1998 sales of \$7bn and 56,000 employees worldwide.

Two years ago Mr Snell stunned the UK engineering sector when he bought the brake-pads maker T&N for £1.5bn, when Federal Mogul was valued at just \$1bn. Since then he has bought the car parts unit of the US engineer, Cooper Industries, for £1.9bn and Fel-Pro - a gasket maker

included Federal-Mogul's highthink he'll come back with a ly-rated paper and a high ele-300p to 310p offer," said Mark ment of debt, provided by Mr Little, engineering analyst at Snell's many backers on Wall Street. The purchase of Lucas, which has a £4bn turnover, would enable Mr Snell to achieve his "BHAG" well before

> LucasVarity repeated that the TRW merger would give rise to greater synergies than a deal with Federal-Mogui

> The company denied that the closure of its car wiring plant in Ystradgynlais, near Swansea where more than 700 people would lose their jobs - and of a brake factory in Cincinnati were linked to the TRW takeover. A spokesman said the decision had been taken because of difficult conditions in the two markets.

> The spokesman said that allegations by Roger Lyons, the general secretary of the white-collar MSF union, that the company's pension fund could be destroyed if Lucas were broken up by a US buyer, were unfounded.

Small caps frolic in the spotlight

SECOND AND third-line shares are outplaying their Footsie betters. As blue chips experienced yet another volatile session, the undercard continued to recover from the depths of

despair experienced last year. The mid cap index jumped 65.3 points to 5,024.2, the first time it has topped 5,000 since August. And the small cap rose 16.1 points to 2,131.2.

Growing takeover activity is a major influence. Bids are flowing with almost monotonous regularity, exposing the hidden value of many smaller

Chemical group Albright & Wilson is the latest to admit it has attracted predatory attention. The shares jumped 23p to 99.5p, their highest since August, after the company said it had received "a number of tentative approaches", but they did not include any proposals from the group's management. In many instances managers, depressed by the value

LANGLEY & JOHNSON has limped back to market; the shares fell 0.25p at 2.5p. The former construction group intends to sell its remaining trading asset, a small Gloucester fencing operation.

It is looking for a reverse takeover and has beld abortive talks with a leisure group. Three years ago shares of the loss-making group topped 50p.

the market has put on their companies, have mounted management buyouts. They believe they know their companies – and their value – better than the market and have been prepared, by borrowing and enlisting the help of venture capitalists, to let their money do the talking. Other undercard companies have used share buybacks to illustrate the belief that the market has it wrong.

Although such corporate activity has been going on for a long while, it is only this year, when the smaller fry have outperformed bive chips, that the message seems to have filtered through to investors. There are even signs that

some institutional investors. which have ignored the under card, are relenting and starting to pick up stock. Hard pressed sports retail-

er, JJB Sports, led the small-er-cap march. The shares jumped 52.5p to 362.5p on the



belief that the worst is over and the shares can start to head back towards their 819.5p peak.

Engineers, spurred by the to 8500 and Senior Engineering, which met analysts on Thursday, 6p to 121.5p: CSFB reckon it is worth 140p a share.

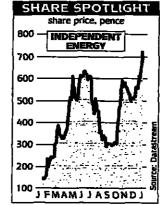
Takeover speculation lifted Brands Hatch, the motor racing group, 8p to 173.5p and Regent Inns 16.5p to 169p. Hepworth, the building materials group, rose 9p to 148.5p

with HSBC suggesting the shares were 25 per cent undervalued. Footsie ended 23.5 points higher at 5,896. It swung

between a 69.2 gain and a 40.5 fall, with New York's behaviour the dominating influence in the afternoon. Trading was heavy, with turnover above 1.1 billion

Securicor was the most wanted Footsie constituent. gaining 42.5p to 631.25p as the market prepared for BT to ring the changes at the Celinet mobile phone group. BT, with 60 per cent of Cellnet, has been anxious to buy Securicor's 40 per cent interest but has been thwarted by Westminster.

Now the Department of Trade & Industry has given BT more flexibility to compete in the mobile phone market. It is to be allowed to bid in the next licensing round and, if it



desires, buy full control of Cellnet. BT firmed 3.5p to 930.5p. Mike Smith was given a muted reception as chief exec-

utive of struggling Rank leisure group; the shares fell 7.5p to WPP, the advertising group, rose 27p to 458.5p on the theo-

ry that it had been left behind in the recent media surge. Diageo's \$192m food sale produced a 35p gain to 672p.

Banks were higher, with Barclays up 61p to 1,360p. ICI - year's results next week - put on 18p to 543p and BAA, also reporting next week, added 20.5p to 723p. Indepen-

dent Energy, the electricity rush of takeover activity, moved and gas supplier, flared 40p to ahead with Bodycote up 62.5p 717.5p, a peak: interim results are next week. Racal Electronic, meeting institutions next week, rose

4.5p to 387p. Premier Farnell added a further 11p to 202p on its restructuring plans. Poor trading reports had a

predictable impact. Allders,

STANDFORD ROOK, the little biotech company, jumped 24p to 166.5p, its highest for more than a year. Talk of a forthcoming link with a major pharmaceuticals group with an asthma treatment was behind the surge.

Two years ago the shares were riding at 635p on the group's TB development. As hopes faded they plunged to a 61.5p low.

with festive sales down fell 4.50 to 108.50. Building materials group Lilleshall, forecasting a £2.7m loss, gave up 20.5p to 47.5p, and talk of a "less buoyant" market left Partridge Fine Arts 11.5p off at 62.5p. Others piling on the gloom were Banner Chemical, off 2.50 at 8.5p, and TGI, down 7p at 33p.

Builders were helped by Bryant's figures on Thursday and upbeat comments from Ward. Persimmon rose 14p higher to 1820 and Bellway 160 at 265.5p. Ward was 3.5p high-

er at 31.5p.

Langdons Foods, planning to raise cash through a share placing, was unchanged at 1.5p. Some Internet shares were given a further upwards whirl. Freepages, linking up with Flextech, put on 4.5p to 32.5p, and Internet Technology

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.1 billion SEAQ TRADES: 74,171

gained 4p to 168p.

Lilleshall plunges on bank covenant breach

SHARES IN Lilleshall, the Berkshire-based provider of industrial services, plunged from 68p to 47.5p yesterday after the company announced it was in breach of its banking covenants with Lloyds Bank. The company warned that

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

redeemable preference shares held by GE Capital Investments. Lloyds has agreed to continue overdraft facilities due for renewal in May, but GE Capital is considering its position.

A trading statement said the after writing down the value of two industrial services divisions its loss-making plastic housesupplying industrial fasteners (wares business it does not have nuts, bolts and screws), tools including Ideal Williams, a the money to redeem £3.3m in

and workwear made operating maker of doors and windows, profits of £4.3m in the year just and St Helens Glass, which ended. The rest of the building products division, now operating mainly in France, made a satisfactory profit. But losses at the plastic housewares business continue to worsen as retailers demand lower prices. Some businesses have been

was sold last month to the management for £1.5m. Together they made operating losses of £3.5m for the year and incurred an operating exceptional charge of £700,000. After other exceptional charges of £17.3m, including a £5m writesold in the past six months, down of the plastic housewares business which triggered the gent.

breach of covenant, a loss of around £20m is likely and no final dividend will be paid. The new chief executive,

Roger Feaviour, said in September that Lilleshall would focus on industrial services and dispose of the manufacturing divisions, including building products and plastic housewares. This has now become more ur-

COMPANY RESULTS

		` _				V-014
788 (I)	3.340m (-)	0.649m (-)	D.48p (-)	- (-)		
Aralleon (I)	1.466m(1.469m)	-0.427m(-0.174m)	-0.4p(-0.17p)	- ()		•
Booth Industries Group (F)	12 .198 m(10.916m)	0,379m(-0.058m)	3.60p(-0.70p)	0.5p(-)	13.04.99	22.03.99
Citemating Group (SP)	74.75m(64.65m)	1.25m(-24.02m)	*11.33p(-4.37p)	5.0p(3.0p)	07.04.99	15.03.99
Class Heates (1)	0.045m(0.053m)	0.006m(0.012m)	0.71p(1 05p)	-(-)	U04,90	13.03.28
Field Circle Industries (ii)	3.84m(7.2m)	-0.653m(-7.91m)	-0.60p(-0.73p)	-₹-		•
Hampion Trust (1)	8.72m(13.72m)	-0.660m(0.532m)	0.80(0.2p)	- (-)	_	•
inter Workings Group (I)	0.314m(0.257m)	-0.835m(-0.327m)	-3.96pt-1.68p)	- (-)	•	-
(Jagdens Foods (I)	1.78m(2.52m)	-0.011m(-0.495m)	0.006p(-0.45p)	- (,)	•	•
The Old Mark Co. (1)	4.78m(2.74m)	0.214m(0.125m)	1.280(1.400)		•	•
Partridge Fine Arts (F)	19.48m(20.12m)	2.26m(3.57m)	7.33p(11.88p)	-{-) . 3.25p(5.0p)	-	
Richards (I)	23.89m(29.5m)	-3.31m(-1.88m)	-14.120(-7.950)		22.04,99	15.03.99
Southern Yestla (I)	12.39m(13.82m)	1.30m(1.33m)	4.5p(4.7p)	- (-)	-	-
Ward Holdings (F)	27.7m(30.5m)	*2.4m(4.8m)		. . (·)	-	-
	• •		*4.23p(7.05p)	1.6p(2.6p)	31.03.99	22.02.99
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THE INDEPENDENT,

SPORT

Rugby Union: Ulster's revitalised No 15 is in prime form for today's European Cup final against Colomiers in Dublin

Mason back to playing for kicks

IT SEEMS slightly absurd to talk BY CHRIS HEWETT about the loneliness of the long distance goal-kicker when he can count on the unconditional support of 40,000 deafeningly vocal Uistermen, but Simon Mason is likely to discover more about naked solitude than he ever wanted to know in the teeming. steaming pressure pit of Lansdowne Road this afternoon. Precisely a year ago. Christophe Lamaison went from crack shot to crackpot during the course of a European Cup final: by the end, he could not have hit the Are de Triomphe with a bag of onions If it can happen to the William Tell

of Brive, it can happen to anyone. Quite rightly: Mason will take an enormous degree of mental and emotional sustenance from the fact that it did not happen to him across the border in Belfast three weeks ago. Confronted with a series of devilish kicks at delicate psychological moments during the semi-final with Stade Français at Ravenhill, his marksmanship from distance was well nigh flawless. But, by God, he felt the dead weight of expectation in every fibre of his being.

"That," he admitted this week. 'was a nervy old afternoon.

"People often say that the longer kicks are the easy ones because there is no assumption that you'll stick them over, but it really depends on the circumstances of the game. The long penalties against Stade Français were real pressure shots because they kept us out of range of Diego Dominguez and his right boot. A six- or seven-point lead is so much easier to defend than a twoor three-point advantage and it meant that Dominguez had to pull some magic out of the hat rather than just make his goals. As it turned out, the magic wasn't there. It pleases me no end to think my

ULSTER'S ROUTE TO THE FINAL

GROUP MATCHES Ulster 38 Edinburgh Reivers 38 (Mason: 3 con: 4 pen, 1 try. 23pts) Toulouse 39 Ulster 3 (Mason 1 pen. 3pts) Ebbw Vale 28 Ulster 61 (Mason: 4 con: 1 try, 13pts) Ulster 29 Toulouse 24 (Aason, 1 con, 4 pen; 1 try, 19pts) Ulster 43 Ebbw Vale 18 (Mason: 7 con: 4 pen. 26pts) Edinburgh Reivers 21 Ulster 23

Ulster 15 Toulouse 13 (Mason: 3 pen, 9pts)

SEMI-FINALUlster 33 Stade Français 27 (Mason: 1 con, 5 pen, 1 drop, 20pts) Mason's total, 126 points

kicks helped push him into a corner."

This time last year, the thricecapped Irish full-back was in a corner of his own. Richmond, the ambitious Allied Dunbar Premiership club he had joined from Orrell in 1996, were paying him - handsomely, as a matter of fact - but not playing him. They preferred Matt my feet again after the disappoint-Pini, the former World Cup Wallaby. as their last line of defence, even though Mason had contributed 321 points to their promotion drive the "I was banging my head against

a brick wall at Richmond and to be bonest with you, rejection felt like a kick in the teeth. It was something I'd never experienced: I'd gone through the system, done well in every age group and at every level and suddenly, I found myself pushed to one side. I went to Blackheath on loan and removed some of the rust from my system, but I knew my whole career was in the balance. Even when Ulster got in touch and asked me to consider moving to Rayenhill, it was a hell of a decision to have to make. I knew the move would hit me in the pocket and, more importantly, my then-fiancee had just qualified as a vet and been offered a job in London. Understandably. Belfast was not one of her preferred options."

If Mason drew the line at praying for guidance, he certainly went through the agonies before abandoning a settled London lifestyle and booking his passage across the Irish

Sea. "You could call it a victory for my rugby over my bank balance; un-like a number of other Irish-qualified players who left the Premiership for the provinces last summer, I didn't have an international contract to act as a financial bedrock. But I figured that if I could establish myself in the Ulster side and perhaps break back into the national squad with a World Cup on the horizon, the sacrifices would be worthwhile. It was a question of pride, as much as anything."

Vindication has duly arrived in the satisfying shape of 126 European Cup points in eight outings, although Warren Gatland, the Ireland coach, remains unconvinced of Mason's latent international class; indeed, the 25-year-old from Birkenhead the qualifies for the Cockles and Mussels brigade through three Irish grandparents) has yet to win a starting place in his country's A team, let alone threaten to relieve the outstanding Conor O'Shea, a personal friend, of the No 15 Test shirt. Nothing less than a faultless display against Colomiers will drive Gatland into rethink mode.

As it happens, Mason knows more about these particular French opponents than the rest of Ulster's merry band of brothers put together. "I came across them twice with Richmond in last season's European Shield and we copped a hiding both times. They're an excellent side, really very accomplished. They have a big physical presence up front, lots of skill out wide and one or two of their players, Jean-Luc Sadourny especially, are world class. I've heard the old cliches, all that stuff about the French not travelling well and how Colomiers will hate playing at a Lansdowne Road full of hollering Ulstermen. I seem to remember people saying the same things about Brive just before they hammered Leicester in the 1997 final

"There aren't any lines you can sensibly draw in advance of a game of this magnitude. It's a final, isn't it? That's as much as you can say. There are no favourites, no underdogs. The team that handles the nerves and copes with the uniqueness of it all will lift the trophy. Those of us fortunate enough to have played international rugby will be able to draw on the experience and help those who haven't to avoid the pitfalls. It's easy to get carried away in this sort of atmosphere, as some of the Leicester guys discovered two years ago. Above all, we need to stay calm and stay together."

Whatever happens this afternoon, Mason intends to stay in Belfast; happily, an extension to his one-year contract, up for renewal at the end of the season, is likely to be agreed sooner rather than later. "It's been pure enjoyment, playing here," he said. "The side is so closeknit and so mutually supportive that it was easy to settle in and find ment at Richmond. In fact, I haven't Orrell days and I'm treasuring every second of it.

"But while we're having a lot of fun, we're also very serious about our rugby. We're not just happy to be in the final. We've looked at the tape of the Stade Français game over and over again and we've said to ourselves: 'Yes, we played out of our skins, but we can still improve technically. We can scrummage better, we can spruce up our restarts, we can cut out these errors.' By taking a professional approach and setting the right standards, we can strike a balance between lapping up all the attention and actually doing the job.

"Irish sides have this reputation of flattering to deceive, but by beating Toulouse and Stade Français we've proved we can win the tight ones. Will we win this one? Who knows? No matter how meticulously you prepare, a cup final is bound to be a swirl of passion and emotion. That is what makes the experience so special. Only one thing is certain. Everyone lucky enough to be involved will take their memories of this occasion to their graves."



Simon Mason stays relaxed in training at Ravenhill this week. The team that handles the nerves will lift the trophy,' says the Ulster full-back

Irish prepared for miracles

GERRY ADAMS and David Trimble are expected to share the same VIP box overlooking the Lansdowne Road bearpit in Dublin this afterhad a run of form like this since my noon and in a perfect world, Ulster would win the European Cup with the last kick of the game and send the two men heading arm in arm towards Kitty O'Shea's for 58 pints of you know what and a table-thumping chorus of "Get 'Em Down, You Zulu Warrior". Pie in the sky? Perhaps. But then, who gave the whiteshirted no-hopers from Ravenhill an earthly of making the final? Maybe one miracle will lead to another.

There has been a holy bible-full of miracles already this season. Smeared all over southern France by Toulouse in September - Ulster lost 39-3 at Les Sept Deniers that day and were distinctly fortunate to go home with the three - they recovered their wits sufficiently to record a five-point victory over the French aristocrats in the return match and set up a third meeting in

the last eight. Stunningly, Ulster then repeated the feat, winning 15-13 in a howling Friday night gale. Staggeringly, they then fought a famous rearguard action to dump the supposed tournament certainties, Stade Français, on their illustrious derrieres at the dangerously ignorant of Laurent

semi-final stage. Talk about your

name being on the cup. Indeed, the predestination theorists find it impossible to believe that the unknowns of Colomiers, a nondescript, communist-controlled municipality situated in the heavily industrialised suburbs of Toulouse, will fare any better than their heavyweight countrymen. Colomiers is not a traditional union stronghold; it is not a Beziers or a Perpignan or a Pau. Its rugby club was founded as recently as 1963 and the number of home-grown internationals can still be counted on the fingers of one hand. Until last season, when Jean-Luc Sadourny's side beat Agen to win the European Conference (a competition for also-rans), they had

never won a brass franc. In the great firmament of French rugby, Colomiers are a satellite rather than a planet. Which is precisely why they could send the Irish favourites into the black hole of defeat today. Like Brive before them - and who can forget the massacre they inflicted on Leicester two years ago? - Colomiers happily conceal their talents behind a cloak of anonymity. Ulster know all about Sadourny, one of the world's most accomplished full-backs, but are

Labit, Patrick Tabacco, Stephane Peysson and the rest of the low-profile operatives whose precision work over five unforgiving months has guided their club to the biggest occasion in its brief and hitherto unremarkable history

And in one very pertinent sense, it is history that bars Ulster's road to the title. The Heineken Cup, as it was known before the politicians started interfering, was for three years the exclusive property of those

ULSTER V COLOMIERS						
ot Lons	down	e Road				
S Mason.		'J-L Sadourny				
S Coulter	14					
J Cunningbam	13	S Roque				
J Bell	12	J Sieurac				
A Park	11	B Lhande				
*D Humphreys	10	L Labit				
A Matchett	9	F Galithie				
J Fitzpatrkk	1	S Delpuech				
A Clarke	2	M Dai Maso				
R irwin	3	S Graou				
M Blair	4	G More				
G Longwell	5	J-M Lorenzi				
S McKinty	6	ß De Giusti				
A Ward	7	P Tabacco				
T McWhirter	8	S Peysson				

who travelled furthest to challenge for it. Toulouse beat Cardiff at Cardiff Arms Park to win the inaugural competition in 1996, while Brive - given no chance whatsoever - gave Leicester what for at the same venue the following year. It was the same story last January, when Bath crossed the Channel and staged the smash and grab raid to end them all by beating the holders in Bordeaux. Home advantage? Home

disadvantage, more like.

Worryingly for something approaching 48,000 of this afternoon's 49,000 crowd, Colomiers are strong in Ulster's most obvious area of weakness; they have two internationals. Stephane Graou and the state-of-the-art booker Marc Dal Maso, in their front row and their presence should ensure another 80 minutes of reverse gear discomfort for the Irish scrummage. Both Tabacco, perhaps the most effective line-out forward in the tournament, and Fabien Galthie, the former international scrum-half, passed late fitness tests yesterday. And although Mickael Carre's hamstring restricts him to bench duty, Jerome Sieurac proved a more than adequate midfield performer in the tight semi-final

victory over Perpignan. Still. Ulster have one or two

match-winners of their own: Simon Mason, always a reliable goal-kicker, has been in golden boot form these last few weeks and if the French start getting up the nose of Clayton Thomas, the international referee from Wales, they will be made to pay for their indiscipline in the hard currency of penalty points. And what of the fly-half David Humphreys, whose resourceful captaincy in the semi-final was overshadowed only by his own play-making ingenuity? Another virtuoso effort today will surely send him scurrying helter-skelter into the Ireland side for the Five Nations opener with France next weekend.

Ulster badly need to go points up in the first quarter, for if they allow Colomiers the luxury of a settlingin period, the Frenchmen will have it topped and tailed by the hour mark. It has been a strange old tournament, though: Ulster's march has more than neutralised the effects of the English boycott and left an entire nation wondering whether this whole adventure was somehow meant to be. "Above all, it's a matter of keeping our feet on the ground," mused Humphreys yesterday. Yes. And Dublin ground at that. Who would have predicted it.

Wasps roused to chase Springbok Teichmann

THE RUGBY retirement home BY DAVID LLEWELLYN known as the Allied Dunbar Premiership looks like attracting another international once his test career is over. The buzz is that Wasps want South Africa captain, Gary Teichmann, to join them after

this year's World Cup. They [Wasps] have been in touch and I've spoken to them, but it's very initial," Teichmann said.

So initial, indeed, that Nigel Melville, Wasps director of rugby, had no inkling that Teichmann was interested in Loftus Road until he read speculation in the press.

"We read in the papers that we were talking to Teichmann," Melville said, "so we thought we had better speak to his agent, which we have now done. I expect to speak to Teichmann himself sooner rather than later, probably after another conversation with his agent."

The Springbok No 8 Teichmann has reportedly been offered around £200,000, although whether that is over one, two or three years is not known. Melville denies making any offer and added: "I don't even know if we can afford that sort of money. coach Graham Henry has reached Teichmann is a fantastic player and we would be foolish not to have fol-

of the match. lowed up on the speculation." One player who definitely moved yesterday was Richmond's Welsh international prop, John Davies, who has followed Scott Quinnell to Stradey Park, although he will not feature in Llanelli's team for today's Welsh Rugby Union Challenge Tro-

phy final against Pontypridd. And spectators at Stradey Park for the game, which kicks off at 5.30pm, will not see any of the nine players in the Wales squad. Welsh

an amicable agreement with both clubs for the players to be pulled out

Swansea rest their wing Matthew Robinson for the Swalec Cup tie against Newport, fuelling speculation that he will be on the bench against Scotland at Murrayfield next weekend.

The fifth round of the Tetley's Bitter Cup sees a resurgent London Irish travelling to Franklin's Gardens looking for a repeat of their convincing Premiership victory over the Saints earlier this month.

Northampton's Argentine front row, Frederico Mendez, said: "We made too many mistakes that night. You won't see the same errors this time. We have to tackle all afternoon. And we will have Matt Dawson back

at scrum-half." Henley are taking 1,500 supporters with them to Kingsholm for the tie against Gloucester. The National League One club, who knocked out Premiership One Bedford in the previous round, are eager to play in the cauldron of sound.

The Gloucester crowd can give visiting teams terrible stick, but

they also appreciate good rugby. With their expansive, all-out attacking approach, coupled with a miserly defence which has conceded 17 tries in the league, Henley should provide the Cherry and Whites with plenty of problems.

Newcastle's all Premiership One tie at North-East neighbours West Hartlepool was given spice when former England and Gosforth prop Colin White, now the assistant coach at West, declared: "Newcastle is just a cheque book club now, one with which I no longer have any affinity." In another tie involving Division

One teams, Harlequins have put hooker Keith Wood and lock Garrick Morgan on the bench and have to do without the services of fly-half Thierry Lacroix (concussed) and coachcaptain Zinzan Brooke. Their opponents, London Scottish, are without Scotland international centre Ronnie Eriksson.

Wendell Sailor makes his last appearance for Leeds at Leicester. Tomorrow sees Lydney of National League One entertain Cup holders Saracens at Regentsholme. Wasps play Waterloo, and Richmond are at

Sydney's ugly answer to Olympic riddle

people's lives when they stop and ask themselves: Who am I? What am I doing? Why am I here? For me, that moment came during September 1993 as I sat in a stuffy, viewless room with approximately 50 fellow journalists who, for all I knew, were experiencing the same feelings of angst and displacement. At least they did if they had any sense.

The task upon which we were all engaged, closeted in our Monte Carlo conference room, was that of predicting to which city the International Olympic Committee - closeted in the luxuriant Hotel de Paris - would award the 2000 Games.

Of the five prospective hosts who had gathered for this qua-



ROWBOTTOM

drennial utterance of the Olympic oracle, Istanbul and Berlin had not even a faint hope of attracting a significant proportion of the 89 available

Manchester, back again

bid for the 1996 Games, had rendered ineffectual. come up with an ingenious projection of round-by-round ney and Peking, were working

Beyond those basic facts, for the increasingly frantic members of the Fourth Estate. there was little to catch hold of but swirts of rumour, fleeting impressions, non-attributable intimations. Theory and around the stuffy room for a

to each other's body.

Sydney, we were told, had the best technical bid-"bloody voting which ended with them near perfect" one IOC member victorious. The General Elec- had claimed. But that had aption, apparently, was about to parently been followed by a be won by the Liberal De- sense among some IOC memmocrats. Meanwhile, the two bers that the Sydney bidders heavyweight contenders. Syd- had become cocksure, which had adversely affected their prospects...

Peking's bid was fronted by Chen Xitong, who as mayor of the city had ordered troops to open fire on protesting students in Tiananmen Square four years earlier. Bit of a public relations hitch there, you counter-theory travelled might think. But the IOC president, Juan-Antonio Samalong, barmy week as the five ranch, was said to favour the basic tools of the trade - who, Chinese because the prospect

after the dismal failure of their what, why, where, when - were of opening up new sporting bid for the 1996 Games, had rendered ineffectual. kind of thing a committee - say the Nobel Peace Prize committee - might look upon

> On the day before the election, 90 white roses, one for each IOC member, were defivered to the Hotel de Paris by the International Campaign for Tibet. A message was attached to each one: "Remember the political prisoners". Would IOC members do any such thing? Hard to tell. No one

was saying. All week, individual IOC members were canvassed discreetly in hotel bars and lobbies, indicating preferences, possibilities and even, in some cases, firm commitments.

But the nature of the exercise - secret voting, with the least successful city dropping out round-by-round - meant

that their true intentions seemed, to adapt Winston Churchill's phrase about Russia, a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. In the preceding months,

Samaranch had trailed the IOC's availability teasingly around the block in Manchester, holding hands with children from a Sale infant school, he was cheered by children waving Union Jacks. Asked whether the rain which had fallen on that day would have a dampening effect on the city's chances, he replied: "We are used to rain. When I am travelling and I find rain in a

lucky country." Oooh. Bet you say that to all the bids.

In Sydney, he was pictured with schoolchildren sporting Aboriginal decorations and costume. "I am happy to be here," he declared, "and I hope to come again, many, many times - maybe also in the year 2000!" Tell you what, cobber, play your cards right and you

could be in there. And so to the reckoning. Denis Howell, who led Birmingham's bid for the 1992 Olympics, said he had 25 votes in the bag. Birmingham polled eight votes. Eight years on, Bob Scott, leader of the Manchester hid, predicted 20 votes in the first votes, and Sydney eventually de-

country, I always think it is a feated Peking by 45 votes to 43. Who could have predicted that? Even that hugely experienced observer of IOC matters, John Rodda of The Guardian, had called it wrongly.

But then Rodda presumably didn't know about the \$Aus105,000 (£42,000) it now transpires that the Australian Olympic Committee president, John Coates, produced on the night before the vote with the intention of swaying two wavering African nations. Par for

the course, it now appears. Personally, I feel more settied about the whole Monte Carlo experience after this month's revelations, knowing that what was wrapped in the round. Manchester polled 11 mystery inside the enigma was not a riddle, but a bung.

Super Bowl XXXIII: Denver face determined opposition from underdogs as they attempt to repeat last year's victory

Six-year wait for revenge fires Reeves

AN UNEXPECTED sight may BY NICK HALLING have greeted the surgeons who performed a quadruple heart Reeves last month: a deeply scarred organ full of anger and

lanta Falcons, appears on the surface to be perfectly temperamentally suited to the peculiar demands of his profession. It is a job he has performed with distinction for 17 years; no other active coach can emulate his 172 career victories, nor his record of four Super Bowl appearances.

Despite his medical condition. Reeves will tomorrow lead the Falcons in Super Bowl XXXIII where he will face the Denver Broncos, the team which fired him six years ago. That alone adds a spicy permier sporting soap opera. Throw into the mix the fact that Denver's head coach, Mike Shanahan, and quarterback John Elway are the people Reeves holds responsible for the head coach. Unwilling to be his demise, and you have the elements of a Shakespearean drama. Watching the sidelines will be almost as much fun as observing the action on the gridiron.

It all happened six years ago, but for Reeves, the psychological wounds remain as fresh as the physical ones inflicted on his ailing heart just six weeks ago. "There's still a lot of hurt there that won't ever go away," he said. "I don't think any time you're fired, and you've been in a place for 12 years and had the success we had, that you understand it or [can] say it doesn't hurt you." The story goes that Reeves hired Shanahan, an exciting young prospect, to coach his wide receivers in 1984, promoting him

bypass operation on Dan to offensive co-ordinator a year later. All seemed well. With Elway masterful at quarterback, Denver went to three Reeves, head coach of the At- Super Bowls, in a four-year spell in the late 1980s, and although they lost them all, the Broncos were recognised as a force within the game. Shanahan joined the Los

Angeles Raiders as head coach in 1988, but lasted less than two years, and when he was sacked Reeves swiftly brought him back to Colorado, this time as quarterbacks coach. Problems soon followed. In a 1990 report in the Denver Post Elway was quoted as saving that communication between himself and close. Reeves believed that his assistant was working with the player behind his back and even creating plays without the knowledge or permission of marginalised, Reeves dismissed Shanahan in 1992 for in-

A year later, following a mediocre 1992 campaign, Reeves too was gone, and Elway described playing for his former boss as "heli". After a two-vear hiatus during which Wade Phillips tried unsuccessfully to revive the franchise's fortunes, Shanahan returned as the head man with a glowing endorsement from the veteran quarterback. Denver have been irresistible since winning their first Super Bowl last year and are heavily favoured to retain their title on Sunday.

Reeves then spent four years with the New York Giants taking them to the play-offs before landing the thankless task

of attempting to revive Atlanta in 1997. The Falcons, one of the league's most consistent losers, had won just three games the year before and the enormity of the task was evident as they won just once in Reeves' first eight games.

Since then, the turnaround has been dramatic. The Falcons have lost just four times in 26 outings: 60-1 underdogs at the start of the campaign, they are without doubt the most surprising team in Super Bowi history. Reeves has rightly been named coach of the year for the achievement, his reputation restored beyond debate.

At times this week, however, his feud with Shanahan and Elway has threatened to overshadow the occasion. His re-Reeves was "poor". The rift sentment has not dimmed with deepened as Shanahan and the years. "You never forget sonal subplot to America's pre- Elway became increasingly those things," said Reeves. "But am I a person that's not going to speak to Mike Shanahan or John Elway? I don't live my life like that, but I won't go out to eat with them or go socially to a function."

A surprised Shanahan says his relationship with his former boss is beyond repair, and denies accusations of undermining his previous employer's authority. "I thought we were both going to take the high road on this and I don't really understand it," he said.

Elway, appearing for what may be the last game of a glittering 16 year career is maintaining diplomatic dignity through it all. "That was six years ago," he said. "I've moved on, and I concentrate on the good times. We had a hell of a lot more good times when he was here than had times."

Not according to Reeves. "You'd have to get us in a room with a psychiatrist and make us talk about what happened," he said. "But that will never happen because somewhere along the line, you find somebody who's not telling the truth."

Since airing his grievances earlier this week under the intense scrutiny of 3,500 media representatives assembled in Miami for the game, Reeves has apologised for his words. the apology being accepted by Shanahan. In a real sense however, his heart has been laid bare in more ways than one in recent weeks. Perhaps a victory over the team that caused him such trauma six years ago will finally allow Dan Reeves' Dan Reeves apologised for this week's outburst Allsport wounds to heal.



Jamal Anderson, the Atlanta Falcons running back, turns the tables during a press conference at the Pro Player Stadium in Miami

Falcons 'guarantee' victory

NOT SINCE the New York Jets running game, led by Terrell Can the feud be resolved? 30 years ago has there been such a surprise Super Bowl participant as the Atlanta Falcons, writes Nick Halling.

Back in 1969, in the build-up to the game, the Jets' flamboyant quarterback "Broadway" Joe Namath famously guaranteed an upset victory over the favoured Baltimore Colts. Perhaps that is what Atlanta cornerback Ray Buchanan had in mind when he made the same prediction earlier this week. guaranteeing an upset in tomorrow's game.

"It's for fun," he said, "but having a guarantee is more of a confidence thing. It's not like a slap in Denver's face. This is reality. This football team has an opportunity to shock the world." To do that, they must first stop the Broncos' top-ranked

Davis. One of only four players ever to rush for 2,000 yards in a season. Davis is in compelling form, as he showed with gamewinning performances in the play-offs against the Miami Dolphins and the Jets. If the Falcons cannot stop him, it is unlikely that Buchanan's guar-

antee will stand up. "If you shut down Terrell Davis, your chance of winning goes up," said Atlanta linebacker Jessie Tuggle. "They depend so much on running the ball, so that's what we have to do."

The Falcons boast a solid ground attack of their own, with Jamal Anderson producing a string of impressive performances this season. However, the Denver defensive unit has been imposing in the play-offs, and in Bill Romanowski they

have a formidable run-stopper. damage against the effective but awed many teams in the past. With both teams committed to containing the run, Davis and Anderson could be in for a painful night's work.

If it becomes a passing game, Atlanta and Denver appear well matched. The Falcons' veteran quarterback Chris Chandler is playing the best football of his 11-year career and is working effectively with his receivers. Tony Martin and Terence Mathis. Both have the ability to take advantage of Denvers' perceived weakness against a well-thrown ball.

Similarly, the Broncos will simply turn to John Elway should Davis falter. The team's inspirational leader for 16 years, Elway has retained the ability to make the big play at the crucial time. His 6ft 5in receiver Ed small Atlanta defensive backs.

The coaching duel will be fascinating because both head coaches have been here many times before. Atlanta's Dan Reeves will be participating in his ninth Super Bowl as player and coach while his counterpart, Mike Shanahan, has won championship titles with the San Francisco 49ers and Denver

"His ability to relate to his players is great," said the Denver tight-end Shannon Sharpe. "He's as hard as he needs to be but he can be easy too. Mike doesn't have a hard time getting guys to play for him because we enjoy him."

The Broncos also enjoy another significant advantage in that, as winners last year, most of them know what to expect McCaffrey is likely to cause from an occasion that has over-

boast three players with Super Bowl experience and only one of them, former Green Bay Packers safety Eugene Robinson, has tasted success. However, the Falcons believe that, as with Denver against Green Bay a year ago, their status as underdogs can work to their advantage. After 33 seasons of mediocrity, they have confounded expectation to arrive in Miami, and just like Namath's Jets three decades ago they are

full of confidence. "We came in this year with the intention of changing the whole image of the Atlanta Falcons, and that's what we've done," said Tuggle. "This is the ultimate goal, but being part of it is not enough. I came here for

Donewald on misconduct charge Beeston lose out to national side

THE BASKETBALL authorities will focus on Moorways in Derby tonight, where the Storm's volatile coach. Bob Donewald, will be under pressure to behave after an extraordinary week even by the American coach's

disciplinary standards. Just four days ago he was banned for two games and fined £300 after his latest appearance before the disciplinary committee, on his 29th birthday. Now, Donewald has been charged with misconduct following a reBASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

colm Heath, about his antics at Derby's Budweiser League victory over Birmingham Bullets at Moorways last Saturday.

Uniquely for basketball, however, and of most concern for the League and English Basketball Association is that the police are now involved after complaints by Birmingham fans about

Saturday and three Birmingham supporters have made com-

plaints to Derby police. On Tuesday Donewald was dealt with for abusing the officials at Derby's game with Greater London Leopards, after he had been fined another £300 earlier in the season for criticising officials after the de-

feat at Thames Valley Tigers. Donewald may find it hard to be on his best behaviour tonight against a team he loves to beat, Donewald's actions. A police of- as third-placed Derby face secport by the commissioner, Mai- ficer was called to the arena on ond-placed Manchester Giants.

London Towers confirmed the worst kept secret of transfer deadline week yesterday by signing the American guard-forward Randy Duck to replace fellow American Eric Kubel. Duck was due to make his debut at Newcastle Eagles last night.

Two other new signings make debuts tonight: Justin Phoenix plays for Birmingham at Leopards and 7ft 2in Adam McCanna for Worthing Bears at home to Chester Jets. The Bears have not won since beating Chester on 3 October - 24 games ago.

YET AGAIN the absence of im-

portant players will affect tomorrow's National League BY BILL COLWILL programme. This time it is caused by an England Underhe said. "Can you imagine

18 training camp at Bisham Michael Owen being released Abbey. Worst affected will be by Liverpool to play for England Beeston, at home to third-Under-18s? I find the whole placed Southgate, who will be thing extremely frustrating. missing Philip Sully, Matt Tay-

"Sadly we have faced this problem during the second half of the season for several years. And what's more we are almost certainly going to have to go into Europe at Easter missing the three of them."

The Hockey Association, however, will simply say that there is just not enough time in the season to fit everything in

Perhaps England should follow the German example and split the National League season into two halves with a long mid-season break, playing on after Easter into the summer months. After all, hockey no

longer shares grounds with cricket nor are top players able to play both games. Andy Billson, the Teddington coach, has left the club and has points.

signed for local Midland club, Northampton Saints, whom he has also been coaching. The Teddington captain, Brett Garrard, has taken over as coach for tomorrow's visit of Cannock.

Hounslow entertain East Grinstead, who beat Brooklands 9-1 last week

With the arrival from Reading of Mark Hoskins, the Guildford coach, Ian Jennings. believes they can give the leaders. Canterbury, a tough fight and possibly even take the

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lor and Andy West.

Graham Griffiths, Beeston's

manager, expressed his amaze-

ment that hockey had not got

to grips with the problem. "It

would never happen in football."

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Set the controls for the heart of Wimbledon

IT SEEMS that following last week's eulogy to him in this column, the powers of Barry Davies have increased; now, he has the gift of bilocation too. commentating on the tennis from Australia and the ice skating from Prague, all in the same day. How on earth does he do it? The tennis cubicle in Television Centre is yards and yards away from the skating cubicle.

It is not just him: Sue Barker is at it as well, though in her case she has to fight against busy back-projections. What's the point of these? Are they to hoodwink us into thinking Barker is sitting on a bridge in downtown Prague? When we've just seen her in bas-relief against the Melbourne skyline?

Thursday's Horizon was tennis highlights programme about supernovae, which ex-

CHRIS MAUME

SPORT ON TV



plode with the force of 10 hillion stars (the expansion of the unithing roughly similar, though it verse is speeding up by the is to be hoped that the career of way, not slowing down as the Amelie Mauresmo, the French boffins thought, outstripping gravity and leading eventually Amazon who crushed world No 1 Lindsay Davenport unto a cold, dark, largely empty derioot in the semi-finals, lasts universe in a few billion years' a little longer than the three time, or whenever Manchester weeks it takes for a supernova City return to the Premiership, to burn itself out. whichever is sooner). On the earlier the same day (BBC2) it

"It was like playing a guy," Davenport murmured ruefully afterwards. She is no sylphlike shrinking violet herself, and for the spectator, it was like watching two guys play.

Not that there is anything wrong with that - this is not one of those laments for the days when women only served overarm because their bustle got in the way. I am all for strong women, and the ferocity of some of the exchanges between Davenport and Mauresmo was

Mauresmo is a big girl, no doubt about it - upper arms like Henry Cooper, fabulous buge shoulders that radiate power and presence. Apart from the protrusions at the front, and with a few adjustments down below, I would do gaol for a body like that. With a big, determined jaw and eyes like a cobra, she has the granite-like impassivi-

ty of a Borg - the sportsman, that is, not one of the bionic, "re-sistance is-futile" Stor Trek baddies. Set the controls for the heart of Wimbledon.

It was appropriate that on the weekend of the fourth round of the FA Cup, Casualty (BBC1) should have a footballing plot. Tigers, Holby's local small-time team, are in a David 'n' Goliath Cup tie. Karl the star striker has a hangover from hell, so the spivvy thug of a manager blackmails his predecessor as star striker, now the embittered

to pick him up. They go 1-0 down and Karl is struggling. Vic Harkness, the grizzled trainer land Karl's father figure; shouts: "He'll have a heart attack!" I wonder how

perennial substitute, to slip a

little something into his glucose

this plot is about to develop, you say to yourself. Karl, despite his knee injury, equalises. Then he has a heart attack.

There were a good few things wrong in the veracity depart-ment: for a start, some players do take, have taken, stimulants of diverse varieties tjust ask Willie Johnston), but on-field heart attacks are about as common as Liverpool winning an FA Cup tie against Manchester United. And the idea that a "top Spanish club" would send its manager to watch a player who had not even made it beyond the lower reaches is laughable.

It seems Casualty specialises in improbable plot lines, though: a fan who had bought tickets for the match appeared to have knocked his son about for losing them; the lad, it transpired, a 14-year-old alcoholic with cirrhosis of the liver, had been beating dad up for ages.

Again, I am sure this has happened once or twice, somewhere, but not very often ino doubt someone will regale me with figures to demonstrate the appalling prevalence of the frightening unseen menace of Teenage Alcoholic Lower-League Football Fans abusing their father because mum died three years ago and he didn't cry about it - the charity is called TAL-LFF Anon, I am told, if there are any sufferers

out there. Still, at the end, after a turbulent we-can-work-this-out-together scene, son asked dad the score in the match. "It was a draw," he replies. "We have a second chance." Do you think he

match there? Or might there have been a double meaning?

There was no ambiguity about Will Carling's appearance on Sporting Greats (BBC2, Thursday); as an exercise in rehabilitation through self-deprecation it was sharneless, if not wholly successful.

"I had no effec! on the team that week - obviously," he said of his start as England captain. "And it went on for eight years." This was a typical response, recking of apparent humility. It's impossible to shake off the feeling with Carling, though, that it is all an act, and with a bit too much slap and what looked like dved evebrows, he came across like Dirk Bogarde as Aschenbach in Death in Venice. It made me feel queasy, anyway.

Australian Open: Russian's rout of Haas ensures showdown with Enqvist avoids 'seedless final' tag

Kafelnikov beats history man

YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV overwhelmed Tommy Haas 6-3, 6-4. 7-5 yesterday to spare the 1999 Australian Open a dubious place in the sport's history. The 10th-seeded Russian brushed aside the 20-year-old

German in a 113-minute semifinal to rule out the prospect of the first unseeded men's singles final in the Open era. There were clear indications of Haas's fate as early as his first service game when

Kafelnikov broke to go 2-0 up. The 1996 French Open champion went on to serve 16 aces and significantly made only 27 unforced errors to his opponent's 41. The 24-year-old Kafelnikov said: "I knew I had to stay tough and focused and did that wonderfully." Kafelnikov, however, quickly

claimed that the in-form Thomas Enqvist would start the final as favourite, the Swede having won two Open warm-up tournaments and having beaten two seeds - including the twice US Open winner Pat Rafter - in the early rounds here.

"Hopefully I will get my chances but I feel like I'm definitely the underdog," said Kafelnikov who missed the last two Australian Opens through injury. In 1997, he was ruled out when he broke a finger while battering a punchbag in the gym and last year injured his knee in a skiing accident.

There was no room for doubt about Kafelnikov's performance yesterday. He started strongly against a tentative Haas and gained important early service breaks in the first two sets. It was the first time Haas had made it past the third round in a Grand Slam tournament and he began nervously. The match was almost over by the time he began to find his range with damaging groundstrokes.

BY DERRICK WINTE in Melbourne

Kafelnikov completely outplayed Haas, breaking the baseliner's serve in the 11th game of the final set and then calmly serving out the match to love. He varied his tactics constantly, slamming 16 aces and also drawing Haas into long rallies. Kafelnikov said he would need to adopt similar tactics against Enqvist who beat the unsung Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 in the first semi-final.

"The one thing I do have to do to stay in the match with Thomas is to hold my serve," Kafelnikov said. "I know if I stay in the match with him I will have my chances."

The semi-final was played with Melbourne Park's retractable centre court roof closed after light rain fell, a decision that did not please Kafelnikov, "I was actually disappointed with the decision, because Tommy beat me once indoors," he said. His win buried the prospect

of the first unseeded men's singles final in more than 30 vears of Open tennis, Richard Krajicek beat MaliVai Washington in what was originally billed as an unseeded final at Wimbledon in 1996. But an International Tennis Federation spokeswoman said Wimbledon officials decided after the final that Krajicek was a seed, replacing Austria's Thomas Muster who had withdrawn

from the tournament. Other than that, the only unseeded final was at the 1966 US National Championships when Fred Stolle beat his fellow Australian John Newcombe 4-6, 12-10, 6-3, 6-4. Open tennis began in 1968.



Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov keeps Tommy Haas at arm's length during yesterday's men's singles semi-final in Melbourne

Two weeks ago, punters had the unseeded Enqvist at 33-1 to win the championship. After winning an exhibition event two days before the Open his odds improved to 9-1. Now the 24-year-old Swede, who had not made it past the quarter-finals

is the strong favourite to take back after an injury," said comthe title.

Enqvist has yet to lose a match this year, with titles from Australian partner Pat Rafter in Adelaide and Melbourne warmup events affirming his return from foot surgery last year.

"I'm quite amazed to see how

patriot Jonas Bjorkman, who reached the doubles final with a five-set semi-final against the

second seeds, Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde.

strong, and so focused, to take [it]. And he seems to be more ready than ever to win a Grand Slam," Bjorkman said.

Rafter, who was seeded third but beaten in the third round by Bjorkman tipped Enqvist to Enqvist, was not quite so sure, of a Grand Slam event until now strong he is when he comes win the title. "Thomas is so as he pointed to an in-form about it." Rafter said.

Kafelnikov, who is under no his chance when he really has pressure. The US Open champion would not, however, begrudge Enqvist the title many thought the Australian himself would take.

Allsport

"If he wins he's a very deserving winner, no doubt

must for Hickstead hopefuls BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Trials are

SHOW JUMPING riders wishing to compete in the Royal international Horse Show and the European Championships. which are both to be held at Hickstead this year, will be obliged to compete in at least one of the preceding International Championship Team Trials.

The results of the first two trials - at Windsor and the Suffolk County Show at Ipswich will replace the rider rankings as qualification for the Royal International, with the top 12 riders gaining entry to the Hickstead show, where the last of the three championship trials will take place in July. They will join three others (Andrew Davies. Jane Annett and John Renwick), who have already qualified through the longstanding series of Area International Trials.

Last year Geoff Billington declined to compete in the championship trials, which decided three of the five places on the British squad for the World Equestrian Games. Believing that he had the best horse in the country in Virtual Village t's Otto, he was confident o gaining one of the two places chosen by the selectors.

The revised rules mean that Billington will have to take the trials seriously in order to be considered for the Great Britain team for this year's European Show Jumping Championships.

The trials have produced satisfactory results. Robert Smith (in 1997) and Di Lampard (last year) earned their places on championship squads through the trials and both went on to achieve the best score for the British team.

VENUES FOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM TRIALS (show jumping): Royal Windsor Horse Show 103 May), Suffolk County Show, Iogawich (2-3 June), Royal International Horse Show Misternational Horse Show Misternational Horse Show



Storm over man-sized Mauresmo

THE WORLD'S top two women players have denied they were talking about anything but tennis when they said Australian Open finalist Amelie Mauresmo was like a man

The 19-year-old Mauresmo has powerful shoulders and a game to match. She saw off the world No 1, Lindsay Davenport, in the semi-finals on Thursday with a fearsome display of power tennis. She is also openv gay and speaks freely about her relationship with a woman who travels with her on the tour. But the player was said by

a remark attributed to defending champion Martina Hingis, whom she will play in today's women's final.

Hingis was quoted as saying in a German-language news conference on Thursday: "She travels with her girlfriend. She is half a man." Or in German: "Sie ist ein halber Mann." Mauresmo's coach.

Christophe Fournerie, told Channel Seven television. "She has the feeling that she played really well and she did well, so she's surprised that the number one and the number two in her coach to be angered by the world could talk about her Allsport comments from Davenport and like that. She thought everyone

would talk about her tennis thought I was playing a guy" and not her private life. That is accused reporters of taking a bit surprising for her because she's young."

Hingis and Davenport both said their words had been twisted by the press. Hingis denied she had ever used the "halfman" remark

"Who would say that?" Hingis said. "She's a girl, she's playing tennis. I have to beat her on court, not somewhere else. She has got a lot of topspin and it's not... that she is a man but she plays like a man. That's what we were saying."

Davenport - who said after being beaten by Mauresmo, "I a few miles away.

her words out of context.

"You guys love to write the worst line possible and you have probably hurt a very nice girl," she told a news conference yesterday.

The row precedes an already intriguing women's final. Mauresmo, the former topranked junior who pumps iron to build up her muscles, twice took Hingis to three sets last year. Clearly distressed by the controversy, she avoided camera crews at Melbourne Park yesterday and went to Kooyong,

Hingis and Anna Kournikova took their first Grand Siam title together yesterday when they beat the top seeds, Lindsay Davenport and Natasha Zvereva, 7-5, 6-3 in the women's doubles final.

The pair won five successive games from the ninth game of the first set to dominate the middle stages of the match on Melbourne Park's Centre Court. Last year Hingis became only the third woman in history to complete a doubles Grand Slam. She has won the past three Australian Open doubles titles and is aiming for her third successive singles title.

TODAY'S NUMBER 5,000

The number of dollars (£3,125) that Super Bowl rings cost. The NFL buys 125 for the winners. plus 125 pieces of iewellery costing no more than half that price for the losers.

Christie hoping for sharp performance

LINFORD CHRISTIE gets back to the sharp end of athletics today as he comes temporarily out of retirement to contest the 60 metres at the Lynx Ex- set him a target which he press AAA Indoor Championships in Birmingham.

The former world and Olympic 100m champion, who will be 39 in April, will not be able to shave for six months if he fails to beat 6.70sec for the distance - a challenge laid down to him by the group of athletes he now coaches, including European 100m champion Darren Campbell and world indoor 400m silver medallist

Jamie Baulch. The younger runners, tired of hearing Christie tell them how he could still beat them even though he had retired from top class racing in 1997, BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

ATHLETICS

could not resist trying for. But Christie looks likely to remain clean shaven given his performance in last Sunday's Karlsruhe indoor 60 metres race, where he finished second to Marc Blume of Germany in a time of 6.57sec in what was his first competitive race since he turned out for his club, Thames Valley Harriers, last

Christie will face a younger generation of challengers at the National Indoor Arena, including Jason Livingston, who has recorded 6.61 this season, European indoor silver medallist Jason Gardener and world ju-

nior 100 and 200 metres champion, Christian Malcolm.

The event gives UK Athletics, whose midweek launch was overshadowed by the doping controversy surrounding European 200 metres champion Doug Walker, the opportunity to get back on to the kind of track it prefers.

A ruling on whether Walker will have a case to answer after providing two urine tests believed to have shown up traces indicating the banned steroid nandrolone is expected to be made early next

Christie is not the only world title winner at the National Indoor Arena. Steve Cram, the former world record holder for the mile, will be making his commentating debut for BBC, who cover their first domestic Winners will qualify automatiathletics meeting since 1985. Cram was commentating for Channel 4 last season but has

been signed up by the Beeb since they took over the athletics contract last autumn in a five-year deal thought to be worth around £15m. The man who used to be

known as the Jarrow Arrow will be working alongside David Coleman, who at the age of 72 is "cutting back on his commentary" according to a BBC Ashia Hansen, who won the

European indoor triple jump last year in a world record, is due to gauge her current form in what serves as the official trial for the World Indoor Championships to be held in Maebashi, Japan, in March.

cally, assuming they have qualifying marks.

Jo Wise, who like Hansen won a Commonwealth title last September is an entrant for the women's long jump. While Christie runs the

shorter distance, Campbell is concentrating on tomorrow's 200 metres event, which Malcolm is also intending to contest. Campbell says he doesn't want to beat his coach, which is very thoughtful of him. The longer sprint looks like

being just as competitive as the 60 metres, given that it is also due to include 400 metres runners Solomon Wariso, who returned from warm weather training in California just over a week ago, and Jamie Baulch. In the high jump, Olympic bronze medallist Steve Smith is planning to take part in his first competition since he injured his neck in a training accident last July Smith, who spent almost two weeks in hospital after his injury, completed his first proper jump earlier this month.

Colin Jackson, who retained his European high hurdles title last summer, is a clear favourite for the 60m hurdles title, having warmed up for the event by winning over that distance in Karlsruhe, where he clocked

Du'Aine Ladejo, the former European 400m champion who is now concentrating on the decathlon, is among the other competitors due to contest the event, as is Paul Gray, the 1994 Commonwealth high hurdles bronze medallist.

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1 July 1. SOF

Woosnam

Els bursts

four clear

IAN WOOSNAM crashed out of the Heineken Classic in Perth

yesterday as Ernie Els burst

vear-old ex-world number one

and Masters champion, now

39th in the rankings after 18

barren months down to the

five-over-par mark of 149 and on

hit it out of my shadow." said

Woosnam, "It's a little bit more

than rustiness, and I'm not re-

ally in the mood to talk about it

Also out was his former

Ryder Cup team-mate Sam

Torrance Doubtful before the

start because of shoulder trou-

ble, the 45-year-old Scot could

add only a 79 to his opening 78

for a 36-hole total of 157, 13 over

his own last season, thanks to

a troublesome back, but now

Two weeks ago he won the

South African PGA title in Jo-

hannesburg and now another

victory is already in his sights

after a brilliant 66 - a score

matched only by defending

champien Thomas Bjorn – lift-

Els, the world No 5, stands

on the 13-under-par total of 131

at halfway, with first day pace-

setter Jarmo Sandelin (71) now

sharing second place with Aus-

tralian Peter Lonard (67) on

Four successive birdies

around the turn put Els in com-

mand, and after a massive 370-

yard drive at the downwind

18th set up another, he is now

odds-on to take the £108,000 first

Former English amateur

champion Roger Winchester,

back on the European tour

after five years of struggle, had

shared second place with Els

overnight, but managed only a

74 to drop to joint winth place

ed him clear of the field.

Els had injury worries of

"That was shocking - I can't

his long way home.

right now.

appears fit.

nine under.

prize on Sunday.

Despite an eagle on the long 18th - his ninth hole of the second round – Woosnam, winner in 1996 and runner-up to Thomas Bjorn last year. slumped to a 78 in the blustery conditions. It dropped the 40-

flops as

By MARK GARROD

into a four-shot lead.

in Perth

Ganguly keeps India in business

SAURAY GANGULY and Rahul Dravid saved India's blushes with gritty half-centuries as Pakistan fought back strongly on the second day of the first Test here yesterday.

Dravid made 53 and Ganguly a defiant 54 as India, replying to Pakistan's first-innings score of 238, slipped to 166 for 6 before recovering to post 254 on the second day.

Pakistan, trailing by 16 runs on an uneven wicket, lost Saeed Anwar for seven before closing the day at 34 for 1 in their second innings. Saeed was legbefore to Venkatesh Prasad but Shahid Afridi and Ijaz Ahmed saw off the day - with the promise of an intense struggle between bat and ball over the remaining three days.

The Pakistani off-spinner Saglain Mushtag claimed 5 for 94 after the captain, Wasim Akram, led his team's dramatic fightback in the morning session when India resumed at their overnight score of 48 without loss.

The new Test opening pair of Sadagopan Ramesh and Vangipurappu Laxman took the score to 67 when three wickets fell in successive overs for the addition of just five runs. Wasim's lethal left-arm swing bowling trapped both Ramesh 🛕 and Laxman leg-before and then Sachin Tendulkar went without scoring to leave India

struggling at 72 for 3. Tendulkar shocked 35,000 home fans when he aimed a reckless heave at his third ball and only managed to spoon an easy catch to Salim Malik at point. Saglain also removed India's captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, before lunch as India reached 124 for 4.

Azharuddin, who made 11, failed to keep down a ball that rose sharply and was snapped up at silly point by Inzamam-ul

BY SURESH SESHADRI in Madras

Pakistan 238 & 34-1 India 254

his 190 and 101 in the last Test against New Zealand with another solid performance before he was trapped legbefore by Saqlain, offering no stroke to a straight ball.

Saglain then had Navar Mongia stumped and Anil Kumble caught at short leg to reduce India to 188 for 7. But Ganguly responded by lofting the spinner for two sixes after tea, the first bringing up India's 200 and the second his sixth Test match half-century.

Ganguiy, who put on 41 for the eighth wicket with Sunil Joshi, finally fell to the legspinner, Shahid Afridi, when he edged a catch to Ijaz Ahmed at first slip. India were still nine runs behind Pakistan when Ganguly departed, but Javagal Srinath ensured the lead by making 10. Joshi was undefeated on 25 as Shahid removed Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad.

Second day: Pakistan won toss
**AKISTAN - First binings 238 (Moin Kha
50, Yousuf Youhana 53, A Kumble 6-70)

Fell: 7-67, 2-71, 3-72, 4-103, 5-156, 6-166, 7-188, 8-229, 9-246 Bowling: Wasim Akram 20-4-60-2 (nb10): Wagar Youns 12-2-48-0; Saqlan Mushcaq 35-8-94-5 (nb5): Shahid Afridu 7 1-0-31-3 (nb3), Nadeem Khan 7-0-17-0



England's Robert Croft just makes his ground as Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya attempts a run-out in yesterday's international in Perth Allsport

Vaughan leads recovery

ENGLAND A showed plenty of BY MARK HARGREAVES application as they batted through the final day to reach 327 for 7 and earn a draw against the President's XI at Kwekwe yesterday to preserve their 25match unbeaten run.

The overnight pair Michael Vaughan (78) and Mal Loye (90) set the tone for a determined rearguard action, and the captain's was the only wicket to fall before lunch after the pair had begun 111 behind with nine wickets intact and a minimum of 97 overs to be bowled on the last

Vaughan curbed his natural aggression and fell only after four and a half hours at the crease, when he drove at and was caught behind off a delivery from off-spinner Dan Peacock.

day of four.

Half of the first 30 overs of the day were maidens, and Loye and Matthew Windows (66) shared a third-wicket stand of 125 in 58 overs with a mixture of necessary but dull defence and occasional flurries of activity.

Loye was not afraid to hit the

in Kwekwe

England 267 & 327 for 7 President's XI 493 Match drawn

Windows struck what he claims to be his first six in first class cricket when he lifted a full toss from Dirk Viljoen over the midwicket boundary.

Loye had hit three sixes and nine fours in his 282-ball innings when he was beaten in the flight and drove a return catch to Peacock when within reach of the century he deserved.

He acknowledged afterwards that he could not be as positive as usual but needed to apply himself to the situation.

"At the start we decided that we had to bat all day, and it was a good opportunity to get some practice in as well," he said. "The Zimbabweans were giving me a bit of strife about just padding the ball away, but there was not really much else I could do.

"As soon as Michael Vaughan

dows and me to stay there for a good session because after us there were a few strokemakers who find it difficult to hold them-Central Districts 218 & 8-0 selves - so it was up to us to bat-

Left-arm spinner Grant Flower tried all he knew to part Loye and Windows but spent a lot of time bowling outside leg stump, and the pair were unsurprisingly content to kick the

tle it out."

Windows followed Laye from the fray after only two more runs had been added, smartly taken by Grant Flower at midwicket.

After that, Andrew Flintoff aimed a few positive blows before being caught by a man positioned for the job on the boundary - a repeat of his firstinnings dismissal.

Graeme Swann again played positively in the knowledge that he was making the game safe, and although both he and Chris Read fell before the agreed close England had put 101 runs of clear water between themselves and the Zimbabweans when the

England Under-19 on brink of defeat again

England U-19 137 & 165

ENGLAND UNDER-19s were in danger of losing the second match of their New Zealand tour after leaving a Central Districts Emerging Players XI to

score 85 for victory yesterday. Beginning the second day on 137 for 7, the home side were finally all out for 218, a lead of 81 that looked as though it could prove decisive even before the England collapse that was to follow, as the tourists allowed themselves to be dismissed for 165 in their second innings. Central Districts finished the

Regan West starred for the home side with 70, while England bowler Mathew Whiley claimed 5 for 41. England drew their first match against an Auckland Emerging Players XI and are due to play three Tests and three one-day internationals. The first Test starts on

second day eight without loss.

CENTRAL DISTRICTS EMERGING PLAYERS XI - First lankage

ENGLAND UNDER-19 XI - Second Innings

- Second Inzings
M A Gough c Walker b Blake
I Maunders b Blake R Dawson c Austin b West 21
G P Hoywood st Sigley b Anderson M J Symington flow b Hefford 36
M Wallace flow b Milmes 2
J Jucker C Fallon b West 15
G R Bridge not out 11
M J A Whiley c West b Walker 0
Datras (Ib2 nb4) 6
Total (63.4 overs) 165
Falt 1-7 2-16 3-45 4-81 5-86 6-110 7-121
S-153 9-163
Bowlinst Hefford (IC-2-77 -

8-153 9-163. **Bowling:** Hefford 10-2-27-1; Blake 9-3-24 2; West 8-2-28-3; Walker 10.4-4-16-1; An derson 17-6-43-1; Milnes 9-0-25-2

CENTRAL DISTRICTS EMERGING PLAYERS XI - Second lankers Milnes not out

on five under. Local knowledge proved a useful weapon as Britain's Lisa Hackney bounced back to form with a five-under-par 67 in the second round of The Office Depot Tournament at Ibis Golf and Country Club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Solheim Cup star Hackney missed the cut in the opening two tournaments of the season in Florida, but she succeeded with a round of four birdies and an eagle, giving her a fourunder total of 140, four shots behind the joint leaders, Karrie Webb of Australia and the American Betsy King.

cancer last year, and this fight In Arizona, Justin Leonard hit a 4-under 67 on Thursday to beat the darkness and give him a one-shot lead over Paul Azinger in the suspended first round of the Phoenix Open.

Beginning his second tournament of 1999, Leonard recorded his fifth straight round below par. He tied for fifth at the season-opening Mercedes Championships, carding no round worse than 72 on the

par-73 course. A one-hour delay due to early frost caused play to be suspended by darkness with 45 golfers still on the course in

Scottsdale. David Duval, who had a final-round 59 in last week's Bob Hope Classic and is already going for his third tournament win of the year, was two over after 16 holes, while Tiger Woods was two-over after 14.

Schofield rolls back the years Reid's raw aggression

GARRY SCHOFIELD will be turning the clock back when he plays his first competitive match for the Rugby League's rock bottom side tomorrow. Great Britain's most-capped player will captain Doncaster, bottom of last season's Second Division, in their Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against Oldham St Annes.

"It's the first time I've played against an amateur side since I was an amateur myself," said Schofield, a professional for a small matter of 17 years, but one who still feels he has something to prove.

Sacked as coach at Huddersfield last season - a matter which he is pursuing through legal channels - one of the most celebrated players of his generation found himself something of a forgotten man. "I don't think I've got a bad

come in, but the phone had never been so quiet," he said. The only opportunity that came up, in fact, was to play rugby union – for the first time

record in the game and I was

hoping that some offers might

RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD in his life - with Aberavon. "It

was a worthwhile experience,' he says of his half dozen games in Wales. "It was a bit frustrating playing at inside centre and not getting the ball, but you don't realise how different a game it is until you try it. "I'll always be grateful to

them for giving me a chance to play when no one else would and I've made some good friends - hopefully for life." Despite that, Schofield, now 33, always hankered after a re-

turn to the game he had played for almost three decades. "I wish I had a pound for everyone who's asked me 'Why Doncaster?' The simple answer to that is that they were the only ones who wanted me. There was another First Division club, but they weren't much of an attraction and Peter

convinced me of Doncaster's "Both the rugby and the

time. But the people in the town are all the more desperate for some success because

Schofield, assistant coach to Colin Maskill and development officer as well as captain and player believes that his side can deliver that success. "We've signed some other

players who have performed at a good level, but we know what to expect from Oldham St Annes this weekend.

"My son plays for Oulton and I've spoken to some people there who know about them. They will be treating it as their Wembley and, if we don't play to our best. Doncaster will go out to an amateur side, as they have before. If not, we get our crack at the big clubs. And I fancy playing Huddersfield."

Apart from Doncaster, other professional sides which will be more conscious than most of the pitfalls include Bramley, coached for the first time by Smith, the new chairman here, Mike Ford, at the back end of almost as distinguished a playing career as Schofield's,

football club have had a tough against Leigh Miners-Rangers. and Workington, at home to the National Conference leaders. Skirlaugh. The 19-year-old Wigan hook-

er, Jon Clarke, has been sentenced to 18 months in a young offenders institution after pleading guilty to assault charges arising out of an incident at a local nightclub last year. The Wigan chairman, Peter Norbury, said that the club was saddened by the outcome, which deprived them of one of their most promising players for the forthcoming

Super League season. "What he did was out of character and represented a momentary loss of control," he said. "No one condones what be did, but we should support young Clarke and his family in coping with the consequences and we have no intention of terminating his contract."

The sentence leaves Wigan without an experienced player in the position, although the Australian utility player, Mark Reber, is due to arrive next week.

will be test for Francis

PELE REID is honest enough to admit he is still a "raw novice" despite being the favourite for tonight's British heavyweight title challenge to Londoner Julius Francis at Bethnal Green The unheaten Sheffield boxer, who has won eight of his 13 paid contests in the first round, is under no illusions as he bids to join a glamorous list of domestic heavyweight kings. which include Tommy Farr, Bruce Woodcock, Henry Cooper and Lennox Lewis.

The 26-year-old former kickboxing champion, now a member of the Brendan Ingle stable. said: "I am definitely not the finished article - I'm still learning and I've got a lot to learn."

Reid's almost paid for his inexperience in his last fight when overweight African Biko Botowamungu floored him in the third round before retiring. Questions remain about Reid's punch resistance and purists shudder at his crude style, but he undoubtedly packs a punch.

BOXING BY MARK STANIFORTH

Reid who nulled out of a Fixropean title bout against the Ukrainian Vitali Klitschko to challenge Francis after Brixton's Danny Williams withdrew with a cut, said: "I've only had two weeks of full training, but I think it's sufficient because I always keep myself in good basic condition. My last fight proved that you can never underestimate any fighter, but I doubt if Julius is more wily than my other opponents. I don't see

this as a big step up in class." Francis, 34, is fast approaching veteran status but is a solid performer who takes his title seriously. A former drug pusher, football hooligan and burglar the list could go on - he truly has been saved by his sport and he now uses his status as a champion to educate local children about the perils of crime.

Francis has another incen-

is dedicated to him. The Woolwich man has been found wanting when he has stepped up in class in his 25-fight career, losing to both Zelkjo Mayrovic and Axel Schulz, but he

tive: John Williams, a lifelong

friend who did more than any-

body to rehabilitate him, died of

will bank on experience tonight. He said: "I'm defending my title and he's not having it - he can't just come along from obscurity after doing nothing and walk in and win my title. He can punch, but I'm not worried about his power because I've been in with plenty of big hitters and come out at the other end. I've worked too hard and too long and made too many sacrifices to lose."

In the chief supporting bout, the former World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title challenger Scott Welch continues his quest for a shot at Herbie Hide when he meets Manchester's Michael Murray.

SNOOKER WELSH OPEN (Cardiff) Third round:
JWattana (Thai) bt P Wallace (Iri) 5-2: M
Williams (Wall) bt A McManus (Scot) 5-0.
R O'Sulliwan (Engl bt A Robidous (Can)
5-4: J Swail (N Ire) bt P Ebdom (Engl 53: A Hamilton (Engl bt L Walter (Wal) 52: Casarter-finals: J Swail (Irl) bt S
Bingham (Engl 5-1: M Williams (Wal) bt
5 Davis (Engl 5-4

SQUASH

Jonathon Power, winner of the world title in the last tournament of 1998. Won the first major event of the new season, the Tournament of Champions in New York, Power, from Canada and seeded third, had to come from 5-9 and 11-13 down in the final same before oversee. in the final game before overcoming his opponent.

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS (New York) Had! J Power (Can) of A Barada (Eg) 15-12 13-15 16-17 15-7 15-13

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne)
Men's singles, semi-finals: Y KAFELNIKOV (Rus) bt 7 Haas (Ger) 6-3 6-4 7S. Woomen's doubles final: M HINGIS
(Swit) and A KOURNIKOVA (Rus) bt 1 DAVEMPORT (US) and N ZVEREVA (Bela) 75 6-3. Mibred doubles semi-finals: D
Adams and M De Swardt (SA) bt E Ferreira (SA) and D Granaru (US) 2-6 6-2 61: M Murnyi (Bela) and S Williams (US) bt
P Albano (Arg) and M Bollegraf (Neth) 64 6-4.

BADMINTON

BAD MINTON

IEADING WORLD RANKINGS: Men: 1 P
Gade Curistensen (Den) 272ps. 2 Fing Permadi (Takwi 241; 3 Sun Jun (Cr) 225, 4 Yong
Hock kin (Malay) 219; 5 B Santoso (Indon)
213; 6 O Hock (Malay) 209; 7 P E HoyerLarser (Den) 205, 8 Ohen Gang (Chria) 203,
9 K Jonussen (Den) 197; 19 R Sidek (Malay)
194, Women: 1 C Martin (Den) 280; 2 Zhou
M (Ch) 271; 3 Zhang Ning (Ch) 246; 4 Ye
Zhaoying (Ch) 246; 5 D Yun (Ch) 222; 6 G
Ruinag (Ch) 277; 7 M Audina (Indon) 200;
8 L Djestavrdavo (Indon) 192; 9 G Zhichao
(Ch) 184, 10 Y Mizui (Japan) 178

BASKETBALL

The American guard, Vinny Del Ne-gro, ended his short-lived return to the Italian Basketball League with the Italian Basketball League with a defeat as Bologna lost to Varese yesterday, and is set to return home this weekend to rejoin the NBA. Del Negro, 32, has agreed to a contract with the Milwaukee Bucks.

BOWL5

BOW L.5

BRISH MASTERS PAIRS (County America)

Remptle Paerick Section 1: J Baker and N
Booch (Iri) be A Carstairs and N Kennedy (190)

7-0.3-7.4-1. Section 2: J Henry and I McClure (Iri) be G Baker and N Burnett (5N) 74.7-6: G Smith and A Thomson (Eng) be
McClure and Hendry 7-5.7-0: B Mellors and
A Marshall (Sco) of Baker and Burkett 7-3
7-4. Section 3: M McPeak and D Cortoll (Ire)
br R Jennings and C Bransky (Isr) 7-3.7-0.
McPeak and Corkill by Richards and G Hanlow (Eng) 7-5.7-1. Section &: I Schulack
and I Taylor (Aus) be M McHugh and G McCloy
(Iri) 7-6.1-7.7-4; McHugh and McCloy
bt 5 Rees and J Price (Wal) 7-6.7-2.

CYCLING

Russia's leading road cyclist. Olga Zabelinskaya, was in a serious condition yesterday after being hit by a vehicle, according to the Russian Cycling Federation. The 18-year-old, who won two silver medals at last year's world jurior championships, was hit from behind by a car on Tuesday and the professions seekus com-

FOOTBALL

Wales' Euro 2000 qualifying match against Italy will be played on 5 June in Bologna. Northern Ireland will play Canada in a friendly at Windsor Park on 27 April. Leeds have released the 19-year-old

Andrew Quinn from his contract by mutual consent. The Elland Road club paid £75,000 compensation to take Quinn from Sheffield Wednesday.
George Weah, Milan's Liberian forward, formerly of Monaco and Paris St Germain, has been voted African Player of the Century. The vote by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics put Cameroon's Roger Milla, who played in the 1982 and 1990 World Cup illnas, in second place.

nals, in second place.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Umbro Trophy third round: Havant & Waterlooville O Worcester 1. Winsboulead Mant Laggue Premiar Division: Fostponed: Crockenhii v Erith Town, Italian Cop Quarter-Bual second-leg: Forentina 1 (Robbian 10) Atalanta O (aggregate 3-3; Florentina win on away gools rule). GOLF

GOLF
HEIMENEIN CLASSIC (Perth, Aus) Loading second round scorus (GB or in uniess stated): 131 E EIS (SA) 55 66, 135 P Lonard (Aus) 66 67; 1 Sandelin (Swe) 64 71 136 C Halmine (LIS) 67 69; 1 Moseley (Aus) 68 68, 138 S Struer (Ger) 70 68, 138 N O'Hern (Aus) 69 70; P Riville (Swe) 69 70; R Russell 70 69; P Devenport (ND) 69 70; R Russell 70 69; P Devenport (ND) 69 70; R Russell 70 69; P Devenport (ND) 69 70; R Russell 70 69; P Devenport (ND) 73 66, 140 C Spence (Aus) 67 72; B May (LL ardy (SA) 68 72; W Smith (Aus) 68 72, L Guepy (Fr) 70 70; R Devsen (Neth) 70; S Laycock (Aus) 69 71; A Hinsen (Den) 69 71, 141 H Hjornstad (Nor) 68 73; B Rug (Ger) 71 70; G Core (Aus) 67 72; A Cejka (Ger) 71 70; G Core (Aus) 67 72; A Cejka (French (Rus) 70 71; P Haugsrud (Nor) 72 69; C Haneli (Swe) 70, 1, 142; L Goop 70, 1, 142; L Goop 70, 1, 142; Caop-70, 1, 142; Caop-70, 1, 142; Caop-70, 1, 143; Caop-70, 1, 144; Cainsel (Port) 70 71; P Haugsrud (Nor) 72 69; C Haneli (Swe) 70 71, 142; L Goop-70, 1, 142; Caop-71, 142, Caop-70, 1, 142; Caop-71, Caop-70, 1, 142; Caop-71, Caop-71, Caop-71, Caop-70, 1, 142; Caop-71, Caop-71, Caop-71, Caop-71, Caop-71, Caop-71, 142; Caop-71, 142; Caop-71, Cao 73 68: I Elliott (Aus) 70 71. W Riley (Aus) 70 71: P Haugsrud (Nor) 72 69: C Hanell (Swe) 70 70: T Haugsrud (Nor) 72 69: C Hanell (Swe) 70 72: J Cooper (Aus) 72 70: S Hana (Aus) 73 69: S Conran (US) 68 74: R Stephens (Aus) 68 74: A Sterborne 72 70: P O'Malley (Aus) 71 71: A Coltart 66 76: P Senior (Aus) 72 70: P Fourier (Aus) 72 70: P Senior (Swe) 72 70: N Kerry (Aus) 68 76: C Jones (Aus) 71 71. 148 A Echantic (Zm) 73 70: P Son (Aus) 71 72: U Grady (Aus) 75 68: C Parry (Aus) 72 71: A Raitr 69 74: E Micoguela (Japan) 69 74: D Small (M2) 69 74: Cay (Aus) 72 71; G Kenny (Aus) 72 71; Chol Kyoung- (Mos) 75 74: T Levet (71 71 72: J Robinson 72 71. 144 G Emerson

SPORTIN

74 70; A Painter (Aus) 72 72; M Lane 71

73; J Bickerton 73 71; P Harrington 71 73; V Phillips 71 73; D Chopra (Swe) 72 72; A Wall 74 70; L Parsons (Aus) 71 73.

PHOCENTR OPPEN (Arrisona) Landing first round geomes (US miless stated); 67 J Leonard. 68 P Azinges (Biesson); 67 J Leonard. 68 P Azinges, 69 R Mediate. L Janzen, 8 Giasson, P Srewort. 6, Hjerstedd (Swe), 8 McCalliszer. 79 S Kendall, T fryba, F Langham, S Stricker, J P Hayes, G Day, H Sutton, 5 Verplank, Salected others: 74 V Singh (Fig.), 75 S Lyle (GB), 8 Hughes (Aus), LPSA OPPICE DEPOT TOURNAMENT (Mest Palm Baoch, Phorlda) Landing second round scores (US unless stated); 136 K Webb Lival 87 69; B King 70 66, 135 N S Cranton 71 56; J Intester 67 70; K Robbies 68 69 138 P Sheehan 70 68; I. Neumann (Swe) 69 69; M Redman 68 70, 148 L Hockney (GB) 73 57; D Pepper 70 70; T Green 68 72; G Graham (Can) 74 66; J Craher (Aus) 69 71, 141 T Johnson (GB) 70 71; A Dhos 69 72; N Ischetter 69 73; S et IPak (S Kor) 71 71; D Eggelling 71 71; D Coe-Jones (Can) 71 71; D Eggelling 71 71; D Coe-Jones (Can) 71 71; D Signeling 71 77; D Coe-Jones (Can) 71 71; D Signeling 71 77; D Coe-Jones (Can) 71 71; D Signeling 71 77; D Coe-Jones (Can) 71 71; D Signeling 71 77; D Coe-Jones (Can) 71 71; D Signeling 71 77; D Coe-Jones (Can) 71 77; L Davies (GB) 71 73 145 Moodle (GB) 74 71, 147 C Koch (Swe) 76 71, 149 5 C McMillan (GB) 74 80.

SOUTH AFRICAN PLAYERS' CHAMPI-ONSSIP (Oneton, Sa) Lending second round scores (Sa malleger stated): 187 W Bradiey 69 68, 138 5 Dunlan (US) 69 69.

138 B Davison 70 68; C Daskon 71 68; 140 N Henning 69 71; N van Rersburg 70 70.

141 K Wessels 72 69; D Ficharter 70 71; T Moore 71 70, 142 L McNelli (Zim) 75 67;

A Cruse 70 72; R Kaplan 69 73; B Pappas 71 71; C Whitelaw 69 73; D van Staden 72 70; 143 D Frost 11 72; W Abery 69 74; B Vaughan (US) 73 70; D Bottes 69 74; H Orto 72 71; 144 J Hawkes 70 74; M McNutry (Zim) 70 74; T van der Walt 73 11; K Home 74 70; B Vaughan 74 70; J Kingston 72 72.

SPORTING DIGEST

HOCKEY

England yesterday beat Slovakia and France to qualify for today's semi-finals in the Women's European Indoor Cup in Trebon. England never looked back after their captain, Lisa Wooding, opened the scoring four minutes into the first game.

WOSEEN'S EUROPEAN BINDOR CUP [Irebon, C. Repa) Pool & Czech Republic & Russia 2; Austria 5 Lichuania 5; Czech Republic & Lithuania 5; France 2 Belanus 9; England 5 France 2; Belanus 4 Slovakia 0.

ICE HOCKEY NHL: New Jersey 2 Boston 0: Nashville 4 Buffalo 2; Carolina 3 New York Rangers 2 (ot): Philadelphia 4 Phoenia 2; Pittsburgh 5 Toonsto 0; Calgary 6 Chicago 6 (ot); Colorado 6 Anahelm 2: St Lows 4 Vancou-

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT: Sekonda

ICE SKATING EUROPEAN FIGURE SKATING CHAM-PIONSHIPS (Prague): Men's final result: 1 A Vagudin (Rus) 3,4 /actored placements; 2 E Pushenko (Rus) 4 2: 3 A Urmanov (Rus) 4 4: 4 A Mascenko (Ger) 8 A: 5 L Toble (Fr) 10 8: 6 I Dinev (Bul) 11 0: 7 E Pobla (Uk) 11 4: 8 V Restencourt (Fr) 13.0: 9 V Dankichenko (Ukr) 18 2: 10 P Meer (Swit) 19 4: 11 R Grzegorczyk (PO) 19 8: 12 5 Rytov (Azer) 23 4: 13 N Wilson (GB) 24.0. GB: 24 C Shorten 43.0.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Frank Endacott has signed a two-year deal to remain as the New Zealand coach. Endacott met New Zealand Rugby League board members in Auckland yesterday and agreed to an extended contract through to the end of next year. RUGBY UNION

ROUGHT OR ION

Rob Wainwright has been selected for the Scotland A side to play their Welsh counterparts at Myreside in Edinburgh next Friday only a week after announcing his intention to quit the International scene. Wainwright last led Scotland during the summer tour of Australia and after learning he had been overlooked for his coun-

he had been overlooked for his country's Five Nations squad, revealed he would retire "either at the end of the World Cup or at the end of this season'. But the inclusion of the former Scotland skipper in what is a very experienced A side would seem to indicate that the door is being left open to a number of play-ers left out of the senior squad.

SCOTLAND A SOLIAD (as Wales A, Edinburgh, Pristay): S Lang [Edinburgh Rehers]. A Stranger (Edinburgh Rehers]. D Officer (Hariequins). R Eriksson [London Scottsh). C Mohr (Northampton): C Chalmers (Edinburgh Rehers). I Fairley (Edinburgh Rehers). B Graham (Newcastle Faicons). M McKenzie (Glasgow Caledonians). M Stewart (Northampton). C Machier (Edinburgh Rehers). R Mahawright (Glasgow Caledonians). S Reid (Leeds). S Holsnes (capt. London Scottsh). J McLaren (Bourgoine-Jallieu). G Blatns (Edinburgh Rehers). R Campbell (Glasgow Caledonians). M Anderson (Glasgow Caledonians). M Anderson (Glasgow Caledonians). M Anderson (Glasgow Caledonians). M Anderson (Glasgow Caledonians). M Anderson (Glasgow Caledonians). M Anderson (Glasgow Caledonians).

SKI JUMPING

SKI JUMPING
WORLD CUP [MININgen, Ger] K120
Jumps: 1 N Kasai (Japan) 266. pts; 2 M
Schmitt (Ger) 265.2; 3 K Funald (Japan)
256.8; 4 D Thorna (Ger) 255.5; 5 A Mdhoelzi (Aut) 253.8, 6 I Ahonen (Fen) 253.7;
7 S Horngscher (Aut) 250.4; 8 J Surhacek
(Cz Rep) 249.1; 9 T Ingebrigsten (Nor)
246.9; 10 R Cacon (II) 235.2; 11 S Hannawald (Ger) 234; 12 R Schwarzenberger (Aut) 233.4; 13 H Myahira (Japan)
223.8; 14 R Mateja (Pol) 222.9; 15 V Kobelev (Rus) 217.7; 16 K Yoshioka (Japan)
212.5; 17 C Meyer (Nor) 208.9; 18 K
Nakarhura (Japan) 206.7; 19 R Ljokelsov
(Nor) 204.3; 20 H Jackle (Ger) 202.2;
Stansdings: 1 Ahonen 1.331; 2 Schmitt
1.138; 3 Funald 1,083; 4 Kasai 933; 5 Wdhoelzi 689; 6 Horngacher 556; 7 Hannawald 543; 8 Myohira 530; 9 Thoma 434;
10 M Harada (Japan) 417.

digital

Cyfor Malta can do the **Business**

WHEN THE crowds struggle away from Prestbury Park after today's card at Cheltenham, the people who are not already planning their next trip to the course will be wishing desperately that they could. After the Wragge & Co Four-Year Old Hurdle which brings proceedings to a close, the next race at Cheltenham will be the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, the opening event of the Festival itself. Many of those at the track today will be back again in March - and so, for that matter, will plenty of the horses.

When the time comes to look back on the jumps season. it will be a surprise if at least one of the Festival's 20 winners did not also run at today's meeting. In fact, there could easily be as many as four of them getting a taste for the track before the main event, such is the quality of the principal contests.

The betting for the Stayers' Hurdle in particular will depend Cleeve Hurdle, which brings together Lady Rebecca - most bookies' idea of the favourite for the Stayers' - face-to-face with Commanche Court, the best in this division in Ireland, and several others with the form to trouble her. The Gold Cup market, too, could look very different by this evening, after See More Business has taken on Cyfor Malta in the Pillar Prop-

By GREG WOOD

year which marked out See More Business as a serious contender for the Gold Cup. He galloped straight through the fourth-last fence, losing many lengths in the process, but still had the energy and acceleration to pick up Cyborgo - an opponent again today - at the last, before quickening clear on the run-in. Cyborgo, of course. wreaked an unexpected revenge in the Gold Cup, when he broke down and carried out See More Rusiness

What would have become of See More Business if his luck had not turned so sour is anyone's guess, but few of his supporters can believe that he would not have finished in front of Cool Dawn, the eventual winner. His problem, though, is that while his jumping is generally sound, he has a disturbing habit of making one bad mistake in every round. Today's heavily on the outcome of the race, meanwhile, follows a poor showing in the King George VI Chase at Kempton, an experience in desperate ground from which he may or may not have

> In the circumstances, Cyfor Malta (2.55) is the safest choice today, as he makes his first start since his successful seasonal debut in the Murphy's Gold Cup. Young, relatively unex-

contender himself, and just one of a strong team from the champion trainer's yard which could dominate today's card.

Unsinkable Boxer who runs in the novice handicap chase, is another Pipe runner who should be back for the Festival. His chasing debut was comfortable enough, but he would have beaten the same rivals just as easily over hurdles, and today's field offers a much stronger challenge.

If anything is to beat Lady Rebecca in the Cleeve Hurdle. it will probably be Commanche Court, but again, it is not really a race to bet on. The last two events, though, are more tempting, with EVEN FLOW (nap 4.05) and Behrajan (4.40) the ones to back

The Great Yorkshire Chase at Doncaster offers any number of possibilities at first sight, but there may be fewer serious contenders than the size of the field suggests. The Toiseach will be the choice of many despite his poor run in the Hennessy Gold Cup last time, but the value could lie with another horse whose last outing was a disappointment. Profluent (next best 3.10) was roundly beaten at Aintree in November, but previously looked a horse to follow when winning on his British debut. Anabranch (3.40) could be another value bet at the same meeting, while Young posed and trained by Martin Tomo (1.15) and River Unshion



Pipe, he is a serious Gold Cup (2.15) have good chances at Ayr. Paul Nicholls with See More Business who attempts to repeat last year's Pillar Chase success Edward Whitaker

Favourite Aljabr is doubtful for 2,000

ALJABR, THE 2,000 Guineas favourite, may miss the race on 1 May at Newmarket and instead tackle the Kentucky Derby on dirt at Churchill Downs the same day.

Aljabr has headed the Guineas betting since winning the Prix de la Salamandre at Longchamp last September, but Godolphin's racing manager, Simon Crisford, said Aljabr is among their entries for the first leg of the US Triple Crown, along with Comeonmom, Wordly Manner and Charmes.

Crisford said: "We will wait to see how he gets on in his trials in Dubai before making a decision on where he will run. We are keeping our options openbut his owner, Sheikh Hamdan

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Monnaie Forte (Cheltenham 4.05) **NB:** In Truth (Doncaster 3.10)

is keen to consider the Kentucky Derby for Aljabr if he can demonstrate the colt has the ability to handle the surface. Aijabr has the right credentials for the Kentucky Derby and when we had him here last winter he always moved very nicely on : the sand track at Al Quoz."

Godolphin could instead be represented in the Guineas by Josr Algarhoud, Iftitah or Dubai Millennium, William Hill and Ladbrokes reacted by offering Aljabr at 4-1 "with a run" for the Guineas.

2,	000 GU	NEAS	
	Н	_L	T
labr	*4-1	*4-1	6-1
ujetid	7-1	8-1	7-1
revinsky	10-1	10-1	10-1
	1 1 - Acodona	T 20-1-10-1	

Ayr

HYPERION

12.45 Quick March 2.50 Mr Mahdio 1.15 Scotia Nostra 3.25 Montrave 1.45 Lord Podgski 4.00 Cambrian Dawn 2.15 Maitre De Musique

Course is E of form on A756 Ayr station (service from Glasgow) Im ADMISSION Cub 5'4: Grandstand 57 (OAFs half-price), CAR PARK: Free.
FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

FVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 24-40 (1714). L Lingo 22-155 (1424). J J
O'Neill 19-172 (1774). P Monteith 18-130 (1254). C Parker 13-94 (1384).
LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 28-176 (2124). B Storey 24-158 (5274). P Niven 19-173 (1654). R Supple 16-80 (2014). T Reed 19-95 (1951). R McGrath 9-60 (1914).
FAYOURITES: 154-392 (29314).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Burnt Imp (17501). Pessimistic Dick (250).

12.45 E.B.F. 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier) (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,768 24-21 QUICK MARCH (28) (C) ;John Yaymes Facing! E Waymes 6 ft 5 . . . N Horrocks (5)

-7 declared -BETTING: 4-7 Quick March, 7-2 Stonehill, 9-2 Rocheburg, 25-1 Goldenbrown Sun, 33-1 others 1998: Mike Stan 7 †1 3 W Dowling (7) 7-4 (L Lungo) 7 ran FORM GUIDE

QUICK MARCH is going the right way and the others will have to provide plenty of

1.15 GLENGOYNE MALT FINAL NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (C) £12,000 2m 5f 110yds £8,500 BBC1 0-P12 SCOTIA NOSTRA (49) (CD) (Out The Box Recing) J.J. C'Nell 7 12 0. _ _ __ R McGrath orange, black stars, orange cap, black star 3-0424 SINGLE SOURICING (32) (G Harrow) A Whitans 8 10 0..... royal blue and orange diabolo, chayrons on sleaves, royal blue can, grange star

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FORM GUIDE

Course Doctor: Latest two wins gained on the course, though unseated on subsequent visit here. Overhauled by Bobby Grant in the testing ground at Newcastle a

Menshaar: Mud-loving stayer over hurdles and scored from Mr Frangipani in the soft at Newcastle before being besten a distance by Cherokee Chief at Haydock, Earli-er caught on the run-in and beaten just over a length by Scotta Nostra at Cartisle but

sto put

Young Tome: Good ground hurdles winner and ran well to this distance at Ascot (4th
to New Leaf) prior to justifying lavouritism at Musselburgh. Testing ground a worry

Single Sourcing: 7-length 2nd to Bristale at Kelso and 6th out of handicap when
4th to Scotton Green at Haydock, staying on well in both. 12th out of handicap today VERDICT: Scotte Nostra was an odds-on shot when he quickened away from Menahase at Carlisle in November but the outcome is tricky to predict with Menshase enjoying a 3th pull. However, they could both be stretched to handle COURSE DOCTOR, who has gained both chase wins on the course and suited by a return visit after the latest deleat at Newcastle.

TOTE GOLD TROPHY TRIAL H'CAP HURDLE (B) £15,000 added 2m Penalty Value £9,968 452°EP JAROCIN (POL) (8) (Spt & Poish) Mrs D Thorrson 6 12 0 D Parker

rojet blue end emeald green check, rojet blue seeves, emeald green emises 2625-1 CAUCKER (8) (CD) (T A Barnes) M Sames 6 11 11 green and mattion check, yellow Seeves, black cap LORD RICHFIELD (NZ) (14) (D) (M W & A N Hams) S Stockshaw 8 11 0 X Aizpuru (3) OAT COUTURE (8) (CD) (BF) (Actioytes) and estretist Littings 11 10 ft . . . R Supple beige, brown hooped steeves, orange cap EPONINE (35) (D) (Eric A Sticth E Elica 5 10 11 n and white impresent that sleeves white car NSTAL GIFT (26) (CD) (Ars L LI Whiters) A Virtiers 7 105 N Homocks (5)

WELL APPOINTED (269) (0) (Orumburg Rearg) 5 L'actegnent 10 to ? Mr B Gibson (7) dark green and light green diamonds, cark green sleeves, light green car-RETTING: 3-1 Lord Podeski, 4-1 Epor

ture, 12-1 Well Appointed, 33-1 Jarocin

FORM GUIDE

Jarocin: Automatic topweight again and cannot be considered Coulter: Tough front-runner who won this race last year with only 10st. Sew off Robbo and Justin Mac at Kelso eight days ago but not suited to carrying big weights and held by Eponine on previous running at Wetherby Lord Richfield: Dual winner at Littoreter this season and stiff task arrainst Major Soon-

sor and Lord Lamb in a novice last time. Game in a finish and copies well with the Lord Podoski: Decent burnoer performer. Took on French Holly here after the him.

dies debut win and will improve for fine seasonal 2nd to Crystal Gift here. Fine chance Oat Couture: Fourth to Crystal Gift here on reappearance and then pipped by Biaz-

ing Dawn In a chase at Yelso. May not be good enough back over hurdes Eponine: Clear cut winner at Wetherby on Boxong Day and only 41b worse with Caulk. er (beaten 26 lengths). Handled the ground well there and interesting with Graham

Crystal Gift: Backed from 10-1 to 6-1 on reappearance here (heavy) and bettled back to beat Lord Podgaki just over 2 lengths. May improve further but runner-up 3/b Well Appointed: Has won only at Carlisle and Kelso and this ground may prove too

VERDICT: Eponine is on a tair handicap mark after the Wetherby success and she is bound to go well with Graham Bradley in the saddle. A big weight may prove too much for little Caulker and the one taken to beat Eponine is LORD PODGSKI,

who ran so well on his reappearance on this course four weeks ago. He is comper atively lightly raced and the 31o pull should enable him to gain revenge on Crystal

2.15 SCOTTISH HANDICAP CHASE (8) £18,000 BBC1 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £12,113 P-33UD ROYAL MOUNTEROWNE (8) (D) (Mrs. J.E. O'Kene) Mess M. Rowland 11 11 5 _ A S Smith mercan and white check, chemons on steeres 11-22 MAITRE DE MUSIQUE (12) (D) (BF) (Robert Ogden) M Yodhunter 8 11 0 G Bradley 133332 BURINT IMP (USA) (14) (CD) (N B Mason) G M Moore 9 105... B Harding V rad, rojel blue hoop, hooped alseves and cap 11/2P3 SOLSGERTH (8) (CD) (Kinneston Fermers) J Barclay 8 10 2.... scarial, Dius shaves and coller; blue cap, green hoop 1-1401 SUPREME SOVIET (35) (CD) (Campbell, Harrow, Richardson) A Whitlans 9 to 1.5 Yaylor mercon and yellow dismonds, yellow sieeves, mercon cap, yellow dismonds

-7 declared -

SETTING: 5-2 Sente Concerto, 3-1 Maitre De Musique, 9-2 Filver Unatrion, 6-1 Burnt Imp., 7-1 Supreme Soviel, 10-1 Solsgirth, 12-1 Royal Mountbrowne 1998: Montaie Forte 8 11 T R Supple 7-4 fav (J Adam) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

Sents Concerto: Rated a Gold Curp passible before 1' engits 4th to Step On Byre at Wetherby (2mt) heavy! Responsibly weighted 6th higher than altest 15-length course with but shorter top could be problem for this front-uniter. Royal Mountbrowner, Useful in this prime for Alder Others (with seasons ago. Not disgraped first they starts this term but faded rapidly 2 cut beford Sizers Station at

disgraced first two starts this term but faded rapidly 2 cut before Starts Station at Kelso latest and possibly best wateried now Matter De Musique: Continues unward curve when bits reck by Nosem in well contested Donnaster handidap (2m2) good to suit;) but 45 rise pools a problem River Unsahlori. Progressing with Sedigified and Newbooks was but but 2 lengths by Cartinal Rule from 25 lower asest and possibly garding not hard seamers grow Burnt Imp: Enjoying a good season. Stightly unusky when but 3 lengths by Cartina's River Reck (heavy) books and 55 put and 54 and Compete to 8 lengths on existing the first first property of the surpose balls and other processing. consequence of the consequence of the jumping halos of the consequence

VERDICT: 1 was a real setback for Len Lungo when SANTA CONCERTO faled To make the grade at Wetherby. The tripue gift possibly had an off day and citized be worth gring from another district. With factor from more Matthe De Mussique in the line-up, the pape is sure to be sound and a should bring his stamp a sto play over a less-than-ideal mp. He gets a namewhere over the wethersard Burnt Imp.

2.50 HIGHLAND MARY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS

.ou	D) £4,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,863
20071	SR BOS (63) (D) (Mrs LE Material W Material 7 7 C C McConnack (3)
5F2201	SR BOS (63) (D) Mrs UE Moleculo W Moleculo 7 Tr 10 C McConneck (D) MR MAHDLO (26) (CD) (MK Comercia 3 Woodbouse 5 Tr 3 B Handing
4-4541	JOWOODY (23) (D) Tagricott Syndozer 1/15 1/1 Favezy 5 10 6
207°	PESSMISTIC DICK (28) (Tam People Cubi Lis 3 Thomson 6 C.4 . K Homodis (5) 8
	THE BURGLAR (28) (Wildowski) R Gode 7 C S
6-F0	TOOTS (8) (Netso Mentiers Limityers Out) 3 Statement 7 C 7 S Taylor

- 6 declared
Mannum weight: 10st. True hendicap weights: The Surglar Set 12th Tools Set Elb.

BETTING: 5-4 Sir Bob, 11-4 Jawoody, 7-2 Mr Mehdio, 8-1 Pessmists Dick, 12-1 The Surglar, 66-1 Tools 10 ran Secretion Green 7 to 10 B Harding 11-4 fav (T Sasterby) 10 ran FORM VERDICT

3	.25	BURNS COTTAGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m Penalty Value £3,171
1	14-364	MONTRAVE (28) (CD) (D St Clear) J Goldie 10 to 13 S Taylor
2	311-6F	PRINCE OF SAINTS (63) (D) (Joe Suzzeo) M Hammond 8 11 77
3	4-3654	RALLEGIO (15) (CO) (P Montesth) P Montesth 10 11 1C McCompact (3)
4	011121	CHUMBY'S SAGA (28) (C) (D) (Ken Baley) L Lungo 9 to 11 R Supple
5		THE EENS (63) (D) (EF) (Share Hill Got Club) D McCam 7 to 8
6	/363-2	JAUNTY GENERAL (35) (E Waugh) A Whitans 8 10 0 A S Smith
-	DI DE DA	DOLLECAL MANDATE AN ACREASE DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY AND ACRES

Allarmum weight; 10st. The handicap weights: Seurgi General 9st 12th, Political Mandate 9st 1th. BETTING: \$-2 The Ears, 3-1 Chammy's Saga, 7-2 Prince Of Saints, 5-1 Montrave, 7-1 Ralli 12-1 Jeunity General, 33-1 Political Mandate ve 9 11 6 S Taylor (5) 9-2 (J Goldle) 5 ran FORM VERDICT

This looks between Chummy's Sage and THE EENS with strong preference for the latter, who looked very promising earlier in the season and will be very hard to beat if recapturing that form. Admittedly he was disappointing last time but he had had a few quick races then and can be expected to bounce back to form today.

4.00 LAND O' BURNS STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m Penalty Value £1,574

BETTING: 5-2 Fishbit's Lad, 3-1 Cambrian Dawn, 5-1 Dante's Glen, 6-1 Cooladerry, Toggi Dance 1998: Three Franks 6 11 7 N Horrocks (7) 2-1 fav (M Hammond) 11 ran

FORM VERDICT insh raider Cooladerry looks the only one with expenence worth considering but this event looks ripe for a newcomer Fishild's Lad is out of a mare who did the stable proud and is a likely sort along with Pluto but on pedigree there must be a good chance that CAMBRIAN DAWN, by Canehil out of a Welsh Pageant middle-distance winner, will be capable of outspesding this bunch.

Sponsorship deal for Johnson and Thornton

TWO OF the country's highflying young jump jockeys, Rich ard Johnson and Robert to acquire sponsorship of their Thornton, will be among the first to take advantage of racing's new rules about sponsorship. The riders, both from sociation and the sport's the David Nicholson stable, authorities before the go-ahead have signed a deal with Toyota was given to the scheme last auwhich will next month put the tumn. Carl Llewellyn was the car manufacturer's name and first to make the breakthrough logo on the side of their breech- to becoming a mobile billboard. es and at the throat of the roll- when he last week announced:

neck shirt under their silks. Personal sponsorship is company Docklands. commonplace in the majority of mainstream sports but racejockeys' employers, by and

own clothing. It took nine years of negoti-

ation between the Jockeys' Asan agreement with another car

But earlier this month many owners decided not to particihorse owners - who are the pate in the scheme a move which has dented efforts by the large on a race-by-race basis - Jockeys' Association to find a have resisted efforts by riders global sponsor for its members.

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April 1 Colon 186

RESULTS

DONCASTER Going: Good

1.00: (2m floyds novice handicap hurdle)
1. REGGIE BUCK _______ Trzzerd 10-

E2:50; £180, £180, DF: £4:30, CSF: £728.
2:35; [2m 3f TDyds handicap chase]
1. THE OUTBACK WAY W Marston 13-2
2. Forestal R Thomton 9-2
3. Nosem K Johnson 4-1 fav Also ran: 11-2 Colonel in Crise; Glamandiz (Sth), 8-1 Flaming Marcie, 14-1 Marbie Man, Rachaels Owen (4th), 15-1 Go Universal (eth), 25-1 M President, 10 ran. 4, 10, 21, 5, 5 (Winner brown gelding by Kambalde out of Precision Chapper, tried by D Wintle at Westbury-on-Severn for Mrs B Grainger, Mr S Bell & Mr D Boocock), Total Sanger, 15-1 Sept. 220, £180.
DF: £690, CSF: £3344, Thosst: £1217. Total Infects: £11330. MR: Tight Fist.
3.10: Sm 18hds powder bruntle)

Trifecta: 2113.0 NF: Tight Fist.
3.10: (3m 18)vids novice hundle)
1. GOODTIME GEORGE
2. Supreme Day M A Fitzgerald 8-13 fav
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CISO. DF: C6.00. CSF: C6.81.

3.45: (3m novice handicap chase)
1. BROTHER OF IRIS — P Niven 7-4 tav
2. Zalloon — R Johnson 8-1
Also: 6-1 Silars. Stalker (6th), 15-2 Freeline Fontaine (6th), 12-1 Carley Lad, Master Wood, Reaganeaque (4th), Seabrook
Lad, 20-1 Blown Wind, 25-1 Thomtoun
House 33-1 Lough Lein Sport. Thirty Below,
50-1 The Other Man.
14 ran. 11. hd. 14, nk, 11. (Winner bay gelding by Decent Fellow out of Grand Cerle,
trained by Mrs M Revoley at Saltburn for
MHG Systems Ligh.) Tote: £2.50: £140,
£200, £360. DF: £6.50. CSF: £15.51. Tricaet:

Placapor: £9.50. Quadpot: £3.79. Place 6: £16.21. Place 5: £2.79. FOLKESTONE Gong: Heavy (Chasss - Soft in places)

1.15: 1. DR JAZZ (A P McCoy) 13-8; 2. Legundary Lover 8-13 fav; 3. Sir Valentine 25-1
6 ran. 10, 11/. (M Pipa, Weilgrighton). Rote:
£2:30: £10, £10, DF: £180, CSF: £2:25.
1.50: 1. RiPARIUS (N Williamson) 11-4; 2.
Super Saffron 20-1, 4 ran. 4-9 fav Farrison.
2. (P Webber, Barbury). Rote: £3:30, DF:
£0:50: £2:387. NF: Native Player.
2.25: 1. PERFECT FELLOW (J Culidy) 8-11
fav; 2. Greyton 16-1; 3. Safart Jos 11-2. Turnilli House 5-2 fav; 3. August Tweittin 6-1
7 ran. 4; 16: (S Dow, Epsorn). Tote: £3:60:
£1:50: £1:40, CSF: £3:82.
3.30: 1. MYSTIC ISLE (J R Kavanagh) 3-1:
2. Selatan 6-5 fav; 3. Shamagore Vaurior
2-1, 4 ran. 5, 18: (N Gassies, Upper Lambourn). Rote: £3:50, DF: £170, CSF: £6:41.
4.16: 1. ITSONLYME (N Wilsmann). 4-5 fav;
2. Lighthing Strikes 4-1; 3. Toreo 10-1 v
ran. 1 det (Mas Veneta Wilsoms, Hereford).
Note: £160: £400 CF: £100, DF: £3:70, CSF: £6:66.
Nr. Mister Doori, Purmpton Diploma.
Places pot: £6:10, Quadpot: £1:430.
Place &: £45:73, Place &: £4:10.

SOULTH W.E. I. Going: Heavy (Chases - Soft in places)

SOUTHWELL Going: Standard

SOUTHWELL
Going: Standard

12.40: 1. COPPER SMELL (Mr S Stronge)
7-1; 2. Bithy Box 11-1; 3. Doubble Echo 7-1
13 ran. 10-11 fav Mach One, 4, 2/a (Mrs L
Jawel). Totas: 9505: 22-10, 54-40, 52-30. DF;
51600. CSF: 573-41. Tincest: 1524-19.
1.10: 1. VINCENT (Mr S Walker) 9-1; 2. Time
0.ut 7-1; 3. Gold Blade 7-1; 4. Kone Althouse
9-2, 12 ran. 7-2 fav Essandess, 8, 4/J L
Harris). Totas: 1500; 22-80, 63-10, 22-50. DF;
659-20. CSF: 556-72. Tincest: 6377-31.
1.40: 1. SHARP SCOING: 12-80, 63-10, 22-50. DF;
659-20. CSF: 556-72. Tincest: 6377-31.
1.40: 1. SHARP SCOING: 16-10-10, 17-10-10;
12. Etupt 33-1; 3. Golden Lyric 2-1, 16 ran.
3-1 fav Gent Line (Sth.). 17/a, 17/a. (D Carroll).
12. Etupt 33-1; 3. Golden Lyric 2-1, 17/a DF;
12. 239-90. CSF: 2577-70. Titicast: 52-5331.
2-15: 1. THAAYER (T Sprake) 6-1; 2. Ambitious 6-1; 3. Frederick James 10-1 10 ran.
4-1 fav Charlade. Nr. 2 (K Bell). Tota: 52-53-1.
2-30. 12-40, 53-20. DF; 677-20. Titos: 52-53-0.
2-45: 1. PIP'S BRAVE (R Lappin). 4-1; 2. Suntail 8-1; 3. Goodthye Goldetone 3-1 fav.
11 ran. 3 //a. (M Polyase). Tota: 15:30-1-160.
15:30. 1. BARON DE PICHON (J Cularo) 6-5 fav. 2. Dearned 9-2; 3. Erinvale 4-1 7 ran.
15. Ind. (N Lithondon). Tota: 15:00. F13-0.
2-50. DF: 52-30. CSF: 52-96.
3-50: 1. RED VENUS (F Plassey). 10-11 fav.
5. Ind. (J Barroll). Fota: 22-20; 11-0. 14-0. DF;
15:2-20. CSF: 52-56.
3-30: 1. STILL. WATERS (T Sprake). 33-1;
2. Anonym 15-1; 3. Sharp Monkoy 20-1;
5. Anonym 15-1; 3. Sharp Monkoy 20-1;
5. Golden Syrup 11-4; 3. Elevany 7-2. 7 ran.
5. Ind. (J Barroll). Fota: 12-20; 11-0. CSF: 13-15.
14-20. CSF: 12-20. CSF: 12-20.
15-20. 15-20. CSF: 12-20.
15-20.

LINGFIELD

1.25 David 2.00 Krystal Max 2.30 Love Blues 3.05 Thomas Henry 3.40 Scissor Ridge 4.15 Behind The Scenes

STALLS: Inside except 5/8 im - outside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to im, especially 8/1.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to im. especially 6!.

Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.
Course is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure £10.

CAR PARK: CLÚD [3]; remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: G L. Moore 84-850 (129%), Pi Harmon.
49-372 (32%), M. Johnston 47-271 (173%), G. Keileway 44-307 (149%),
LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 78-58 (12-9%), J. Weaver 88-307 (221%), S. Sanders 65-563 (11.5%), S. Whitmorth 54-383 (14.1%).

E FAVOURITIES: 777-2134 (33.6%).

ELANCRED FIRST TIME: Hungill Lady (200), Dionys (visored, 230). Merry Princa (visored, 230).

1.25 PELLEW APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 3YO 1m 00-313 CYRD (5) (8P) D Nichola 9 7 P Clerke (3) 8
60-432 PERCHANCER (11) P Hastern 9 6 P Goode 4 8
0005-4 SHADY DEAL (14) M Lisher 9 5 W Hatchinson (5) 3
40002 DAVID (49) Mss G Kelleway 9 4 P Predeficks 9
3008-2 COMPTON AIGKA (21) G A Buster 9 4 P Dobbé 5
002-03 MSSPRIATT (11) E Winseler 8 3 S Carson 2 B
05-00 ABSTRACT (16) J Winnerlyn 8 6 J MicAuley 1
000-03 RATEY (68) M 98 8 8 4 C C Carson 2 C Carson 2 B
000-07 TROUS EU ST (11) A ST 8 000- BRATIST (195) MI BES 5 - C Carver 7 9 000-01 TROIS ELLES (11) (C) R Spicer 7 13 D Morragh 6 - 9 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Trais Elles, 4-1 Perchancer, 9-2 Cyro, Compton Aldes, 11-2

FORM VERDICT A selling-class handicap in which TROIS ELLES can confirm last week's superiority over Perchancer and Misprint, wance as they did then. The fly in the ointment may be Bratby, who is making his handicap debut off a low mark and would not need to be very good to go close.

2.00 BLACKWOOD CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,500 added 5f

(35-11 KRYSTAL MAX (23) (CD) T D Barron 6 9 12 Juni - 4 declared -

BETTING: 4-7 Krystal Max, 4-1 Palacegata Jack, 9-2 Dande Times, 8-1 FORM VERDICT A straightforward tesk for top weight KRYSTAL MAX, who

has an outstanding record here and should be able to pounce

on the front-running pair Palacegate Jack and Dande 2.30 CHURCHWARD BALL & CHAIN CLASSIFIED STAKES (F) \$2,750 1m 2f

BETTING: 8-11 Love Blues, 2-1 Roi De Danse, 13-2 Scotland Bay, 16-1

FORM VERDICT A good opportunity for LOVE BLUES to quickly add to last week's Wolverhampton success. He will not be qualified to this level of event in future and should have no trouble in tak ng advantage of the quirks of the entry system. Roll De Da

Bella, 16-1 Jonathan's Girl

3.05 KEEP WARM IN THE RESTAURANT MAIDEN STAKES (D) 25,250 71

BETTING: 5-6 Namy's Affair, 7-2 Thomas Henry, 4-1 Outskoutsens, 6-1

FORM VERDICT A very weak malden in which well-bred newcomer Nany's Affair would have not to be very good to make a winning debut. But THOMAS HENRY has the form on turt to take a race like this and may be able to make his experience tall.

3.40 WINTER WARMER OFFERS H'CAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 71

-7 declared -Minimum weight, 7st 10th True handicap weight: Pollan Legion 6st 12th BETTING: 5-2 Hugerity, 3-1 Shades Of Love, 4-1 Topton, 5-1 Rainstorm, 7-1 Stopwatch, 10-1 Sciesor Ridge, 12-1 Polish Legion

FORM VERDICT

Since ridden from the front, HUGWITY has gone from strength to strength and he should make another bold show from his rais draw. Topton has been running well when he gets his rum conditions (held up in a race run at end-to-end gellop) but today's smaller field may not be ideal, while Shadea Of Love has proved vulnerable off this higher mark before. Scissor Ridge has an offputting record but is better drawn

4.15 COLLINGWOOD HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m Value £2,772

321-31 ROYAL ROULETTE (11) (CD) Miss B Sanders 5 to 1 ... A Clark 3 70021 BANEURY (USA) (11) (C) C Dwyer 5 100 Golobed (7) 8 E 61-014 PRINCE DANZIG (11) (C) D Murray Smith 6 9 IS N Calino (5) 4 47:30- FATHER SKY (J70) (D) O Sherwood 8 9 9..... S Carson (7) 7 B 100-63 HARBK (11) (C) G L Moore 5.97......

BETTING: 4-1 Spick And Span, 8-1 Royal Roulette, Abutijood, Padauli, 7-1 Banbury, Red Raja, 8-1 Harlk, Coleridge, 10-1 others FORM VERDICT A competitive finale with six of the field having won here this

where. Royal Rouletta was impressive here last week, but got a good ride in a race run only at a steady page and may not find things so easy off her much higher mark today. There is a stamina question mark over Banthury and Prince Danzig, but none over RED RAJA, who beat Padauk here last time and who may be capable of further progress on this

low to jump and can confirm that

he is in the form of his life after

disappointing in the Hennessy

but makes jumping errors.

be beyond him.

Capenwray: I expect this trip to

Blue Charm: Runs well in his

own class but out of his depth.

Profluent: Faller when beaten

Glitter Isle: Ran a cracker be-

hind Eudipe at Sandown last

time. A reproduction of that form

Frazer Island: Does not look

Chipped Out: Has won two out

of four this season but against

1.15: SCOTIA NOSTRA has

notched two wins and caught a

tartar in King Of Sparta at Chel-

tenham. He jumps well, acts in the mud and has already seen off

1.45: Pitted against French

Holly two outings ago, LORD

PODGSKI is now in an average-

looking handicap. He ran a

cracker on his reappearance

and should improve enough to

reverse the form with Crystal Gift.

2.15: MATTRE DE MUSIQUE

showed plenty of fight before

going under to Nosam at Don-

scope for improvement than

CHELTENHAM

2.20: UNSINKABLE BOXER

has long been touted as a poten-

tial Gold Cup winner and he will

surely give the weight to some average opposition here if the dream is to be fulfilled.

2.55: The kid-glove treatment

CYFOR MALTA has been get-

ting from the Pipe camp sug-

gests major prizes are in store.

The turn of foot he displayed to

settle the Murphy's Gold Cup

could put See More Busi-

appeared to have the Stayers'

Hurdle in the bag half a mile

from home at the Cheltenham

festival last March but did not

get home. He should be ideally

suited by this shorter distance,

3.30: COMMANCHE COURT

many of his rivals.

caster and probably has more

last time, so best watched.

will see him go close.

weaker opposition.

good enough.

Menshaar.

pressure.

bowever.

Starting-prices:

Winners' ages:

PUNTERS' GUIDE

Cab On Target: Defies advanc-

a brave performance

ing years and is sure to put up

Tullymurry Toff: Needs to im-

prove on a poor run last time.

In Truth: Well beaten in his last

three runs but this Festival win-

Naiysari: Should strip fitter for

run behind Mr Strong Gale but may lack the class to figure.

Major Bell: Without a win since

1996 and will have to wait a lit-

Ask Me Later: Out of his league.

Symbol Of Success: Simply not

Carlingford Gale: Tough, con-

Jefferies: This Taunton winner

could do well off a light weight.

Conclusion: THE TOISEACH has been given plenty of time to

get over his flop in the Hennessy

and can prove what a class

horse he really is. Glitter Isle

should figure on the evid ance of

his run behind Eudipe last time.

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

4.05: Terry Casey thought hard

before opting for this prize with

EVEN FLOW in preference to

the Great Yorkshire and the tir

4.40: HORS LA LOI III simply

backed up at Lingfield despite

an unsuitable early pace and

could be shown in an even bet-

ter light with Behrajan sure to

DONCASTER

2.35: BARTON'S winning form

at Sandown looks all the better

in light of the Newbury success

by King's Road. He continues to

shine and is taken to prove too

3.10: The Toiseach jumps extra

well and he will find the opposi-

tion softer than in the Hennessy

The better ground is also a help,

but this could be the day thast TULLYMURRY TOFF hits top

3.45: ANABRANCH is a bat-

tling mare who is well handi-capped with Tom Brodie. She

has won on the course and her

rivals have seen better days.

4.20: MASAMADAS was a win-

ner on the Flat and will come on

a bundle for his first taste of

jumping at Kempton. He gets 10th from Dangerus Precedent

and that should be enough to

secure success.

1989 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98

100-30 7-2 9-1 A 9-2 13-2 A 11-2 5-2 4-1

TLS TLED TOLD A TOLD TLA A TOLD TLTD

8 9 B A 6 B A 8 9 9

10-YEAR-TALE ON THE GREAT YORKSHIRE CHASE

Fate of the favourities: 3 3 3 A 2 3 A F 1 1

Winner's place in betting:2J 2 3 A 2 0 A 0 T 1

Profit or loss to £1 stake: Favourites +£0.50 Second Favourites +£4.17

Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 63%

Top trainers: Mrs M Reveley (2) - Delicey Sound (1991), Carbisdale (1994) Top lockeys: T Morgan (2) - Bob Tisdall (1888), Provently (1988) P Nivan (2) - Dalkey Sound (1881), Carbiadale (1994

Shortest-priced winner: General Command (1997) 5-2

Longest-priced winner: Dalkey Sound (1991) 9-1

A Abandoned, F fell, J joint levourite

AYR 1.45

Land Podgski 7-2 3-1 7-2 10-3 3-1

Crystal Cat 92 92 41 41 92

Lord Richfield 7-2 5-1 92 4-1 4-1

Oat Couture 5-1 5-1 5-1 11-2

Well Appointed 25-1 20-1 16-1 20-1 20-1

Each-way, a film the colds, places 1, 2, 3

AYR 2.15

Santa Concerto

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Suprame Souls

Royal Mountbount

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CHLS

72 41 72 72 72

11-2 8-2 11-2 5-1 6-1

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41 41 92

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gear since his injury.

smart for Major Sponsor.

make it a true gallop.

should be taken.

sistent mare who runs well in

tle longer.

her own class.

Noyan: No form this season.

ner does relish Town Moor.

Favourile ... Aljabrij

doubtful for 2,000

The Toiseach gets vote of confidence The state of the second of the The former top jump jockey Steve Smith Eccles analyses today's Great Yorkshire Chase The Toiseach: I taught this fel-

arme danne d Gold Cup. That race came too soon after his Ascot victory and he is ready to run for his life. Mr Strong Gale: Always runs well and could make the frame. Lively Knight: Having his first run of the season and goes well when fresh. Stable out of form. ile Me Set : on in here The Last Fling: Stays forever the right will be the second of the second o

PARTY HARE PICHARD EDMONDSON ivap: Monnaie Forge (Cheltenham 4.05) NB: In Truth Dancaster 3.10 neider de le wisold file

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Each-way, a filth the roths, places 1, 2, 3 *THE INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS CHELTENHAM 971 981 DONCASTER 972 982 973 983 974 984 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970 Collected Big per admite: 115, tall, Sendino SI ECA 47

FIRST SHOW DONCASTER 3.10 CHLS The Tristach 41 41 41 41 41 7-1 7-1 7-1 7-1 8-1 Girtar Isla Hr Strong Gaile 9-1 8-1 7-1 9-1 7-1 8-1 8-1 B-1 10-1 10-1 Fezzer (stand 11-1 12-1 12-1 11-1 12-1 Halystari 14-1 (2-1 (2-1 (2-1 14-1 Tulypromy Tot 2-1 (2-1 14-1 (2-1 12-1 Chipped Out 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 18-1 The Last Flog 12-1 16-1 14-1 14-1 14-1 Carb On Target 20-1 28-1 20-1 20-1 15-1 20-1 16-1 16-1 15-1 20-1 Talor Ball 16-1 20-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 25-1 20-1 Blue Chama 33-1 26-1 28-1 20-1 20-1 Cartagord Gain 25-1 25-1 18-1 25-1 33-1 Linely Kalgha 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 Symbol Of Succ. 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 Ask Ma Later 33-1 33-1 40-1 33-1 33-1 Each-way, a quadar the cettle, places 1, 2, 3, 4 C Coral, H William Hill, L Lexbrokes, S Stanley, T Total

CHELTENHAM 4.05 CHL 72 103 72 103 103 74 103 31 72 103 72 72 Monopole Forte 6-1 6-1 18-2 7-1 13-2 7-1 5-1 15-2 nex, a quester due colote, pieces 1, 2 Ladbrokes bet on the Chellenham 3.30: 6-4 Lady Rebects, 3-1 Commanche Court, 4-1 Torbox, 5-1 Grey Shot, 8-1 Sher Wedge, 20-1 Cestle Sweep, 50-1 Anzum, Doncaster 3.45: 11-4 Lord Dorcet, Scalies Sk, 3-1 Ton Brodie, 9-2 Anabranch, 11-2 Mul-igan, 16-1 Nakr, 56-1 Cheeka.

CHELTENHAM

HYPERION 1.05 Magic Combination 1.40 Polar Prospect 2.20 Unsinkable Boxer 3.30 Commanche Court 4.05 Even Flow 4.40 Hors La Loi III 2.55 Cylor Malta

2-55 Cyrlor MBRID

GOING: Solt (Good to Solt in places)

Listi-hand, galoping course with stiff fences. Uphili run-in of 240yd.

E Course & In N of town off AA35 Bus link from Cheftenham station (served by Brish Bernspham and London, Packington) in ADMISSION: Cabe 5 Tatter soils combined C12 (jurisce, 16-24 years, 12 6). Courses Endourse 15 GAR PARKErne.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 43-281 (63-3), In Nicholson 32-211 (63-4), In Niviston-Device 22-241 (03-9), J Gifford 16-118 (135-8), Min J Plansen 15-70 (21-45).

ELEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 42-162 (25-9-1), IN Williamson 35-164 (213-9), R Dumenody 32-186 (63-9-1), I Oaborne 28-132 (212-9), A Maguire 22-143 (63-9), III FAVOURITES: 209-521 (401-9), ELONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Monable Forts (405) travels 34 miles.

SLINKERED FIRST TIME: Rainwatch (140), Cyborgo (255), Torboy (330), Hit And Run (440)

1.05 CHELTENHAM THREE COUNTIES RACE CLUB NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (D) 25,500 added 2m 1f 24,758 2:00-1 BUCKSIDE (43) (D) (Queen Exsisten) N Honderson 7 () 10 M A Fitzgerald 2:-079 GUALDER (43) (D) (Exportine Security P Webber 5 1 5 J. Obborna 442 POLAR CHAINP (23) (D) (B Stocker) N Gosteles 8 (1 5 A P McCoy 405 SHADIANN (21) (M Boctesum 5 J Brown) P Murphy 5 (1 2 N Williamson 307-1 MADIC COMBRIATION (17) (Mas B Curley B Curley B Curley 6 (0 9 T. Financia 19) 10 P Spannes 19,143 DONNYBROOK (23) (BF) (R Sman (16)) R Woodhasse 6 (0 8 T. J Marphy 22/22 BRIGGS TURM (6) (Mas M Leedyn) B Llevelly 1 (0 8 M Batchelor (5) 80.306 SHARP TEMPER (80) (M Arche 5 Miss.) Broodharst (N TOures 5 (1 3 C Liverelly 63-2) DUNSTON BILL (45) (BF) (P Holinshead) P Beran 5 (0 3 R Mantelly 63-2) UNISTON BILL (45) (BF) (P Holinshead) P Beran 5 (0 3 R Mantelly 63-2) UNISTON BILL (45) (BF) (P Holinshead) P Beran 5 (0 3 R Mantelly 63-2) UNISTON BILL (45) (BF) (P Holinshead) P Beran 5 (0 3 R Mantelly 63-2) UNISTON BILL (45) (BF) (P Holinshead) P Beran 5 (0 3 R Mantelly 63-2) UNISTON BILL (45) (BF) (P Holinshead) P Beran 5 (0 3 R Mantelly 63-2) UNISTON BILL (45) (BF) (P Holinshead) P Beran 5 (0 3 R Mantelly 63-2) UNISTON BILL (45) (BF) (P Holinshead) P Beran 5 (0 3 R Mantelly 63-2) UNISTON BILL (45) (BF) (P Holinshead) P Beran 5 (0 3 R Mantelly 63-2) UNISTON BILL (45) (BF) (R MANTELL (45) (BF

- 16 declared
Manusum wre-girc 10st. True handings wespits. Gun Me Space 9st 13th, Rober John Johnes 9st 7th, Volumes 9st.

BETTING: 4-1 Magic Combination, 9-2 Buchulsia, 9-1 Polar Chemp, 7-1 Briggs Turn, 8-1 Picket
Place, 10-1 Sharp Temper, Shadisan, 12-1 Guildes, Doomybrook, Look Sharpar, 14-1 others
1998 Gusteridge 8 10 6 A P McCoy 10-1 (P Exans) 12-mm FORM VERDICT

Potentially-smart Buckelde has something to prove and, at fively odds, is passed over in favour of POLAR CHAMP, whose bijest form stands up well and who well have the assistance of Tony McCoy Megic Combination, Look Sharper and Give Me Space are still unexposed and appeal most of the others in an open

1.40 PITTVILLE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £6,866

Minimum weight 10st True handicap weight Detain 9st 130 BETTING: 7-2 Lamikeran, 9-2 Polar Prespect, 8-1 Benatom, tala, 10-1 Maiona, 12-1 Oktum, 14-10thers 1998 Mr Perby 7 12 0 P Hale 3-1 (J Griford) 6 ran FORM VERDICT

A strong pace seems likely with Rainwatch, Lennkaran and Halona all sused by forcing lactics. They will suit Polar Prospect and SOUND APPEAL, who can take advantage of a tayoutable mark with her stable in better form now than when she shaped with some promise last time.

2.20 TIMEFORM NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £7,360 1111-1 UNSBAKABLE BOXER (43) (C) (Paul Green) M Pipe 10 12 0 A P MicCoy block, white basid, block cap, white busins with the busins with the busins with the busins of the b

FORM GUIDE

Unsinkable Boxer: Top staying moved hurder ast term and Gold Cup toncy after one run over forces, beating indeeds Carry On Brentan 6 lengths at Untreater By no means a stak jumper yet, and helity task at weight. Goes well an soft Chloodark: Useful handcap hurder two seasons ago, but difficul to tundy on chase debut halowing two years on the soletines. Useful purper or me soletines. Useful purper or memory useful chases putting by to lengths win due Chereful Appear at Warrest (and soft) at the wall need career-peak here and is prone to breaking blood vessels. Stammylativesation: Jumped poorly and not have up to promise of Stength win over Skycab here (2m4), good to stift when bith 12 lengths by Sient Chacker at Sandown. Probably worth another chance that the cough fulfity faturg or major step up in closs after big Shore Party (sec Sb) 2 lengths at United the force of the mill Open to improvement an acts on soft. Fleadey Wood: Three-time winner over hurders last sent unter to bear in two checies at Workesser last summer and plenty on his place from 150 out of handicap but obtically well regarded and cannot be ruled out with yard intering form.

VERDICT: The assessor has taken no chances with Unishinable Boxer, with a FORM GLIDE

VERDICT: The assessor has taken no chances with Umaintable Boxer, with a mark 20b repher than he last handcap hards wan. His Umaintable Boxer, with a mark 20b repher than he last handcap hards win. His Umainter win gave no clas to his potential, and there may be more value in STORMYFALRWEATHER, who returns from a near-two-most the lay-oft held Hendersons legistry-specifical was below his best of Sandown last time but previously looked potentially smart when winning here. He goes best fresh and can make full use of his 2st concession.

2.55 PILLAR PROPERTY CHASE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £30,000 added 3m 1f 110yds £18,390 Employer of the service of the servi

- 5 declared -BETTING: 11-16 Cyfor Malta, 6-4 See More Business, 8-1 Cyforgo, 12-1 Go Hallistic, 16-1 Rugglero 1998: See Micro Business 8 Tl 6 T J Murphy 9-4 (av (P Nacholis) 7 rain

Cyborgo: Basien 4 lengths by See More Buciness here last year, but has run moderately both starts since (chase and hurdle) Looks stable second string here.

See More Business: Error-prone 1997 King George winner. Ran deplorably when attempting repeat but month but previously up to form big Don Samuuras at Chepstow. The pick at the weights on his best from last two seasons and hos left John O'Shea since poor run here in November. Probably best witched Cylor Matter Campart and John Hughes Chase witner last term. Narrow Murphys Gold Cup (2m4f) winner here in Nov from Simply Dashing (gave 9th 1. Acts on soft and sall on uboracle, but slight starting doubt. FORM GUIDE

and still on upgrade, but sight stamma doubt Ruggiero: Winner of 2m1f and 2m3f (soft) Camers in Franco this season. Stays 2m6L but looks out of his depth in this company on British debut but does due or insurpring the source of the chastring better. Oyfor Malita stall has something to prove and was fast running out of petrol when just holding. Samply Dazhing here in November A truly-run race could find the chark in his armour, particularly up against such a celetimized character as SEE MORTE BUSINESS. Paul Mortolist states seemed to handle the tences well here until camed out in the Gold Cup last March

3.30 MARCHPOLE CLEEVE HURDLE (Grade 1) (A) £42,000 added 2m 5f 110yds £25,000 C4 data bue and yellow stroke, white sieved and cap 38-754 CASTLE SWEEP (29) (Lord Vessey) D Nathakon 8 ft 8

FORM GUIDE

Anzum: 1997 Stayers' Hundle 2nd. Tailed off 7th of 11 to Princeful at Ascot last month, first outing since and probably best watched here. Goes well in the mud. Castile Sweeps' Coral Cup 3rd here in 1997 Not force of clid this term after seasons lay-off and bits 32 lengths when 4th of 5 to 1.3 by Rebecta over C&D latest. Commanche Court: 1997 Triumph winner, Failed to stay when 12 lengths 6th in Stayers' Hundle (3rd) here in March should be ideally suited by this trip. In time form with account March and I be market should be ideally suited by this trip. In time form with easy Navan and Leopardsztwin was and should go close easy Navan and Leopardsztwin was and should go close Grey Shot: High-class Flat stayer, much improved over hundles this term. Possibly unlucky when career-best ½ length 2nd to Relikeel here (2m1), good to soft). Inter-esting over leapner the

unfluidly when canser-best ½ length 2nd to Relikeel here (2m11, good to soft), inter-esting over longer trip.

Silver Wadge: Close to the best in 1996 (Stayers' Hurdle 5th) and on the way back after lay-off when bitn nit by Splendid Thyne here (2m, good to soft) but trip possi-bly on sharp side.

Tortony: Had Lady Rebecca 16 lengths behind when staying-on 14 lengths 2nd to French Holly over C&D in March, Lightly raced but yet to tacke easy surface.

Lady Rebecca: Improving with every run and excellent display to give consistent.

Alpine Parither 14b and 13-length beating over C&D tayest. Favoured by weights. VERDICT: This will be the bagest test for LADY REBECCA, but she looks more than equal to it on her latest CAD win. There is stall room for improvement in her jumping but a clear round should give the edge over Commanche Court (going very well at this thip in Stayers' lest March) and Grey Shot. Torboy, who looked a potentially high cless stayer in the Sun Alfance, is the unknown quantity but commands every respect in view of his yard's available frepower.

4.05 LADBROKE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) 225,000 added 2m 5f £16,613 C4 1 mm-F TIPSTAFF (FR) (7) (D) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 8 to 0. A P McCoy 8 royal blue, emerald green stewes, white cap, emerald green spots
2 F-6341 DR LEINT (63) (Pear Emery) P Hobbs 8 to 3 ... M Wellemson yellow, dark blue strope, dark blue steves, yellow emilies, white rap
3 Ti22-1 EVEN FLOW (CS) (D) (A T A Widea) T (Case) T (Case) T (Case) M A Fitzgerald Ped, brown statues, red armiets, white cap 29.P-3 JATHER (CAN) (29) (0) (Down Peg & Maling Svs Lurh IV Pep 9 10 0 ... R Johnson Sight blue, dark blue chemon, uspool on sterest, plot blue dark deer brue star 5-37h STORM DAMAGE (7) (0) (7 Curry C Lewis, Penny Machell P Notnots 7 10 0 J Tizzard yellow, black star, emerald green cap, black \$22

— а инстатии— Min.mum weight: 10st. True handicap seepits: Jamb 9st 13th, Storm Damage 3st 8th BETTING: 3-1 Dr. Lacint, 7-2 Monnale Forte, 4-1 Jathib, Even Flow, 8-1 Tipstaff, Storm Damage 1988. Papillon 7 t0 0 N Williamson 7-2 (T Walsh. Irl) 6 non FORM GUIDE

Tipstaff: Winner over fences in France up to 2m4t, but let at first when well backed in Super Coins race at Haydock on British debut. Acts on soft but hard to assess or Leunt: 10 lengths 4th in Tirpleprint over C&D (good to soft) from 3b lower before Kempton win over Lancastrian Jot. Consistent but plently of weight now Even Flow; 3-one winner last ratm and confirmed progress with 3-length comploads. was over Big Matt at Kempton. 3to higher here and could be pressed to contem ta sessor's Haydock form with Monnaie Fort 6th worse for 2 lengths

Monnaie Fort: Much improved less season and still progressing when 3-length 3rd
to Super Coin over C&D in March from 3to higher. Goes well tresh and well in with

to super com over cach in water trond as ingine. Codes were treat that we water the Even Flow on Haydock form (2m41, good to soft) last February Jamillo: Coreer-best effort on first run for Pipe yard when "--length 3rd to Eirespray over C&D on comeback. Open to improvement, but big task at the weights Storm Damage: Progressive sort with career-best 3'--length win over The Land Agent at Kempton (2m41, soft) laiest but hard to tancy from 6tb out of handicap VERDICT: James Adam was forced to bypass the Victor Chandler with MONNAIE FORT due to a sight injury. The non-year-old, a winner first time out tast seson, kept page with the handicapper tast sesson and has surprisingly been dropped 3th here. His bold jumping is ideally suited to this course and he is taken to reverse Haydock.

4.40 WRAGGE & CO FINESSE HURDLE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £15,000 added 4YO 2m 1f £9,645 TI BEHRAJAN (21) (D) (Selvajan Partnersho) H Daly 11 9.... . yellow, purple and yellow simped sterves mica: HIT AND RUIN (FR) (21) (CD) (Gerry Scanton & Viss J Kirk) M Pape 11 & A P MicCoy B dani bibe and emerald green (quanered), striped seemes, dani bibe cap Ti HDRS LA LOI III (FR) (49) (D) (Li D Martin) F Dournen (Fr) Ti 6 yellow, rough blue chemons, orange seemes and cap CLASSIC MASQUERADIE (CAN) (F179) (P & J Green) M Pipe 11 9 T J Murphy salver, rasself on cap 34432 NOBLE DEMAND (USA) (29) (Ars E.A. Haycock) G. Bairing 11.0 . . . M. A. Fitzgerald red, white diamond and armists, check cap 2 MINELLING (17) (The Cockot Crew) P Hobbs 11 0 pallow, dark thise observor, damnoted on steeper serious cap, dark they distinctly 604 REDEMPTION (21) µlorn Duggan; N Tweston-Dawes Ti 3 C Llewellyn royal blue, orange hoop, crange steeres, royal bure armoss, quarares car - 9 declared -

BETTING: 3-1 Behrajan, 7-2 Hors La Loi SI, Norsid Lad. 6-1 Hit And Rum, 8-1 Hunt Hill, Nunciling 14-1 Classic Mesquerads, 16-1 Noble Demand, 20-1 Redemption 1998. Zalarshad 4 1) 0 R Johnson 1-3 tay (D Nonolson) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Behjaran: Possibly flattered by 16 lengths win over Hidebound at Sandown (2m.soft) but a resolute galloper who will take plenty of beating on this stiff course His And Run: Four-time scorer, Ran up to best when staying-on 2% length 3rd to Norski Lad at Sandown (2m, soft) but 16b worse off with winner here Hors La Loi III: Auteui winner before 16-length win over Wave Rock at Lingfield (2m. soft). Looks sort to progress but form has not worked out particularly well Hunt Hill: Much improved when beating Martin Pipe's proinc scorer Miss Orphan 17 lengths at Chepston (2m, soft) but plenty more to find in this company Norald Lad: Confirmed Exerce promise with barting win over Blue Royal and Hut and Run at Sandown. Form yet to be franked but looks a major player Classic Masquerade: Middle-distance maiden on Flat for Richard Hannon. Looks stable second string on hurdles debut

Noble Demand: Progressing steadily, but least 10 lengths 2nd to Dangerus Precedent over C&D (good to soft) leaves him plenty to find Nurveilland: Promising debut when blandared 2 out, bin 5i by Scartet Pimpernel on Kempton debut (2m, heavy). Form boosted by 5th placed Pagasonic. Could be surprise packet with normal improvement

on: Weakened 2 out when bin 20 lengths by Norsia Lad at Sandown (2m, soft) and will need abnormal improvement to reverse placings VERDICT: Plenty of questions will be answered here, but it will take a smart one to helt BEHRALIAN, who galloped the previously unbeaten Hidebound into the ground at Sandown. His winning time was slightly faster than that of Norski Lad (carried 9b more), on fresher ground the same afternoon. Hore La Loi III looks a formidable

proposition and Nuvetilino also has the potential to play a leading role.

DONCASTER

HYPERION

.00 Coulthard 1.30 Supreme Charm 2.05 Alzooma 2.35 Barton

3.10 Tullymurry Toff 3.45 Anabranch (nb) 4.20 MASAMADAS (nap) GOING: Good. Left-hand, pear-shaped course

Course is E of town off the A638 (M18 Jobs 3 & 4). Bus link from Donoaster Central

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: Mirs M Reveley 12-85 (A1%), D Nicholson 9-48 (188%), N Henderson 8-30 (267%), Miss H Knight 7-28 (25%), Mirs S Smith 7-31 (226%), ELADING JOCKEYS: P Carberry 11-40 (275%), R Garritty 9-63 (17%), M A Fitzgerald 8-36 (222%), R Guest 8-39 (205%), L Wyer 8-54 (148%), P Niven 8-57 (14%), FAVOURITES: 82-232 (355%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Harlequin Chorus (205).

1 00 TICKHILL LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C)

L	1.00	£6,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,824
١	2135-0	GATFLAX (56) (D) (Dr John Hollowood) A Turnel 7 to 10
2	142.02	ROAD RACER (35) (D) (Poer Gamett) P R Webber 6 11 2 A McCartiny
3	F-5030	MEW INN (21) (CD) (an K Sewart) 5 Gollings B 11 0
4	0-F5f1	SIKANDER & AZAM (49) (CD) (Lord Dansbury & J Greenoff) C Grant 5 10 9. R Gentity
5	08231-	HOUSE OF DREAMS (F116) (D) (J & M Leisure) G M Moore 7 to 7 Calleghan
9	1-P121	COULTHARD (21) (D) (R Brazzer) Mrs P Sty 6 10 6 W Murston
7	-50642	SHIRKING EDGE (36) (CD) (G Gerham) T Easterby 7 106 L Wyer
9	-5124\$	SAMANID (43) (D) (Mrs Therese O'Toole) Miss L Scidal 7 10 0
9		KATHRYN'S PET (70) (D) (Bill Brown) Mrs M Reveloy 6 to 0 Mr A Dempsey (3)
ı,	F04/3-	SERIOUS (490) (D) (Tony and Dee Lousada) S Dow 9 10 0
I	329031	TIME FOR ACTION (32) (D) (Bryan & Ann Beacham) C Mann 7 til 0 Magee
		- 11 declared -
A	विकास सम्बद्ध	ht: 10st. True heutricep weights: Kethryn's Pet, Serious 9st 13th, Time For Action 9st 11fb.
	CTOMP. a i	Verbunda Das C v Carllan et a Silvandon à James 7 e Daniel Benne Annilland 6.1

95:TTRIG: 4-1 Keltryn's Pel, 5-1 Galliex, 6-1 Sikander A Shining Edge, Time For Action, 10-1 others 998: Mehamirs 6 10 13 R Thomton 3-1 (D Nicholson) 9 ren FORM VERDICT
COULTHARD had a hard ace last one but hopefully he has recovered in the intervening time weeks. Kethryn's Pet is a possible alternative, along with Road Racer.

1.30 GREAT YORKSHIRE MEETING' NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £4,211

SETTING: 4-5 Supreme Charge, 3-1 Better Offer, 9-2 Moor Lane, 12-1 B The One, 20-1 Big Jurapa,

998: Cuthill Hope 7 11 4 R Guest 7-2 (Mrs & Smith) 10 ran FORM VERDICT

SUPREME CHARM is highly regarded by his connections, has jumped well on his three chares starts to data and will be suited by both track and ground today. However, this is by far his stiffest task to date with both Alloor Lane and Better Offer above average novices.

2.05 DALBY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £4,824

FORM VERDICT

Bold Galt should stay this trip well if his Fist form is anything to go by, but he looks a speadater over hurdes and is perhaps not one to take a short price about over this longer trip. DOMAPPEL was in good form on the Fist last summer and will definitely be better for his comeback run over hurdes; he could go well at a price.

2.35 RIVER DON NOVICE HURDLE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £15,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £10,088 grey, red elseves, black and red check cap 11 BURUNDI (58) (Gary J Roberts) A Carrol 5 11 8..... menon and white (quantred), white shows, marcon armies, marcon cap MENSAHE OFESTEEM (12) (CD) (Thranch & R. Jones) S Golings 8 11 1_D Gellagher black, large rad sposs, rad shows, black spole, rad cap

BETTBIG: 6-4 Barton, 9-4 Major Sponsor, 7-2 Bursmill, 10-1 Bluedonks, 25-1 Beaut, 33-1 Mer Ofseteers 1956: Ginger Fox 5 11 6 D Leahy 11-2 (Mrs J Pitman) 7 ran

. 4.

Berton: Smart novice with four staying wins, the latest at Sandown (clied run-in) from King's Road, who boosted the form at Newbury next time. Tough and the one to beat Bluedonic Stratford and Ascot winner found out in the better races won by Hoh in-vader at Cheltenham and Hidebound at Ascot. Can be expected to improve for the Bluedonic, Stratford and Ascot winner found out in the better races won by non invader at Chelterham and Hidebound at Ascot. Can be expected to improve for the step up in trip.

Nation Sponsor: 2nd in heavy ground at Ascot. Can be expected to improve for the step up in trip.

Nation Sponsor: 2nd in heavy ground not the smart Crazy Horse at Ayr and has impressed since at Catteriok (2m3f) and from Lord Lamb at Newcastle (2m). No trouble with trip having won a point in 1997.

Seau: Winning bumper and soft ground Newton Abbot scorer. Bad mistakes three out when in contention in Behrejan's hot race at Sandown tast time. Up in trip today Burundit Dual winner at Leicester, considerably extending superiority over Dacha. Tried over longer trip here and may find opposition too smart allemashib Oriesteants. Beat John Bush in handicap over C&D off a low weight last time and looks out of her depth.

VERDICT: MAJOR SPONSOR will stay the trip having won a point and he remains in cracking heart judged on the impressive win from the highly-rated Lord Lamb at Newcastle. Bartion is going to be a big danger, especially with King's Road giving he tatest Sandown form a boost at Newbury. There is just a doubt about Burundi over this trip, while Bluedonits and Beau need to improve for the longer journey.

3.10 GREAT YORKSHIRE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £30,000 added 3m Penalty Value £24,479 tn-1P THE TOISEACH (63) (CD) (T & J Vestey) J Fanstone 8 T 13...... A Dobble V red, yellow hooped sleeves and cap -1232 MR STRONG GALE (29) (D) (T Chappel, R Eddy) P Nichols 8 11 4 R Thorston 8

15

987 70, Jefferries Str. Cit.

BETTING: 5-1 The Tolescoch, 7-1 Gitter Isla, 8-1 Mr Strong Gale, 10-1 Jefferies, 12-1 Frazer Island, 6-14-1 Capermany, Tailyatonry Ted, Najyaraf, The Leak Filing, 18-1 others

1998: Speaker Weathers 9 11 11 M Breman 4-1 fav (O Breman) 16 ran

7

FORM GUIDE

The Tolesach: Won at this two-day forture last year and again on the course from Random harvest in Merch. Very easy winner from the slow Cour. Melody at Ascot on reappearance and found ground too soit in Harnessy. Fine chance on this going Mr Strong Galec, Consistent in the top races over shorter rips and a hurdles winner over this journey, Lividucky loser (bed mistake three out and relied) against Eiresprey at Cheftenham last time. Lively Knight: Unraced since the Whitbread but twice a winner on first start of the season. Will like the ground and has regular partner aboard. The Lest Filing: Well beaten when fell times out in Hennessy and a 7-length 2nd to the useful Random Harvest at Wetherby last time. Ground no trouble Caperway, in good form this season over shorter trips but a well-beaten 5th to Eiresprey at Cheftenham last time (meets the 2nd Mr Strong Gale on same ferms). Blue Charm: Tough gelding who acts on all going, Autrice winner on reappearance but well beaten by Dr Bones at Wetherby next time. Wins over 3m on sharp tracks Profluent Beat Cumbrian Challenge and Major Bell at Wetherby (2mt) on responsance but was beaten when a faller of Antire effertwards. Stiff task over this trip Gilltar late: Travelled well throughout and might have beaten Euclipe but for lest-fence error at Sandown (3mf) on most recent start. Every chance at weights but best form with plently of cut in the ground.

with plenty of cut in the ground Frazer Island: Wirs at the smaller meetings (2nd to Auto Pilot at Leicester last time), though gets 12th pull for 6-length beating by Mr Strong Gale at Sandown (2m4) Chipped Out: Dual winner over 2m4 at Ayr this term (beat Committed Schedule last time) and has won over the trp. May lack necessary pece on this ground Cab On Target: Found thip (2m4) too sharp at Wetherby but creditable 3rd to Lord Of The West here (2m2) lest time. Has ground conditions to his liking Tullymurry Toff: Decent staying hurdler and has faced stiff tasks this term (shorter trips). Novice winner at Newcastle and Chettenham before fracturing lone. Fire chance on tayoured ground if retaining his ability.

Tallymarry Toff: Decent staying hurdler and has faced stiff tasks this term (shorter trips). Novice winner at Newcastle and Chellenham before fracturing lines. Five chance on favoured ground it retaining his ability in Trutht: 8-length 2nd in the race last year and went on to win the Kim Mult at Chellenham. Likely to go well despite poor showing behind Medison County last time Netywart: Beet Sounds Fyne at Worcester last backend and good third to Mr Strong Gale at Sandown (2ndf) on reappearance, 16b better here but prefers softer ground Noyatr. Has shown title on two starts this season after being off the course last tarm lifegor Belt: Going well when a failer (tertif) in this last year and now 28b better with In Truth (2nd). Has won over the trip and latest 4th to Dr Bortes at Wetnerby (2ndf) suggests a good showing here with Adrian Meguire booked.

Ask Me Later: Beet Forestal at Newcastle (2ndf) and even more effective over this trip. Outstayed in testing ground at Ayr lest time and Brely to find this too hot Symbol Of Successis Improved last season but hard to fartly in this league after two modest showings this term.

Carlingtond Gale: Liese Uniceter and probably not up to the task from 7b out of the tradicap despite good recent runs against Kadou Noruntass and Noley Miner Jefferfest: Has won four times at Tauriton, the Latest from Spring Gale in November Uses 2000 ground and has charces despite being 8b out of the handicap.

VERDICT: THE TOISEACH has been well backed this week and the class and ground is a lot different to the Hennessy, for which he was strongly fancied. He jumps was and the next in at the weights, für Strong Calle, has still be prove he gets three miles. The ground may prove a shade twely for dilitter tale, but The Last Fling is well thought of by connections and a bold showing is expected. Best of the others is Tullymurry Toff, who has been running over shorter trips.

3.45 MANSION HOUSE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,500 added 2m 110yds Peneity Value £8,276 mauve and pirit check, white sleaves 352-65 LORD DORCET (33) (CD) µ Hogg) J Charton 9 11 3......

white, royal blue hoop and armiets, striped cap Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Cheeke 7g 9fb. BETTING: 5-2 Lord Dorest, 11-4 Torn Brodle, 3-1 Squire Silk, 5-1 Anebranch, 6-1 Mutligan, 16-1

1998: Cumbrian Challenge 9 11 8 L Wyer 7-2 (T Easterby) 7 ran FORM GUIDE

Multigan: Former top-notch novice but continues to disappoint and dropped away after going well when besten by The Land Agent at Wincanton last time Squite Still: Very smart on his day and less on his plate compared to Ascot lisst time when 3rd to Get Real and Celibate. Likes to be held up for late burst Lord Dorcet: Decent in 1996 (won Ascot and Sandown). Tailed off at Ascot on resparance and soft task when last-of-5 to Cumbrian Challenge at Wetherby Anabranch: Notched up a sixtimer last season, the final success coming here, and sure to improve for seasonal 3rd to Brian's Delight at Carilale (meets the 2nd Tom Naidh: Former Arkie Trophy winner and had first start for two years when tailed off

behind Nearly An Eye at Urtowese. Looks on the downgrade Your Brodle: Finished long way clear of Anabranch when 2nd to Brian's Delight at Cartisle and good winner from Dr Bones at Wetherby in November. Rested since and elect Winner of small races and has little chance from miles out of the handicap VERDICT: SOUIRE SILK, Multigan and Makir have been class acts in their time.

Squire Silk will appreciate this type of grade after taking on Get Real and Celibate at cot and he could still have the ability to give the weight to Tom Brodie, who will find Anabranch a sterner rival today com

4.20 SOUTH YORKSHIRE TIMES BREWERS HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,000 4YO 2m 110yds £5,085 yellow, purple spots, yellow cap n SAINTES (IST) (D) (I. H Girauray & T J Docherty) J Goldie n 6 McPhail (5) brown, pink cross belts, pink can, brown star white, large red apols, hooped eleaves, red cap-WTME, BEIGN ER GELLEN, TENDERS OF WEIDER TO U.S. THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF T black, yellow cross belts, yellow cap figit tike, emerald green soots yellow, black diamond and sleeves, red cap 32 SINT MADIA (73) (The Countess of Tyrone) Lord Tyrone 10 9 R Widger (5) emerald green, royal blue biple diamond and sterves

- 11 declared -BETTING: 8-4 Dangerus Precedent, 4-1 Italiabad, 6-1 Saintes, Masa 14-1 Lastman, River Best, 16-1 others 1998: Buddy Marvel 4 11 10 P Carbarry 10-3 (O Sharwood) 14 ran

FORM GUIDE Dangerus Precedent: Continued his progress to gain 10-length win from Noble De-mand at Cheltenham under 12to penalty. Similarly penalised today so leading chance Salirites: Flat winner (Im) and unbeaten over sticks at Ayr and Newcastle, the latter win gamed by 3 lengths from Dangerman. Striter test he ste on the Flat and no show from two hurdle attempts

Chief Cashler: Dust warner over im2l at Epsom and stall task on jumping debut when a well begin 4th to Hunt Hill in terrible ground. May do better on this surface Dolgts d'Or: Winner on the Flat in French Provinces and pulled too hard when a 28length 5th to Norski Lad at Sandown this month. Sure to do better and stable going . naibad: Ex-French trained colt who met a decent sort in Simply Gifted at Wether-

by on hurdes debut, going down by 15 lengths after making mistakes. Likely to do betler Lastman: Had some Fiel form in France and stiff task on hurdles debut at Cheltenhern

atanno) in mid-November. Rasted since and may come on for experience das: Windsor Fiel winner (fetched 31,000 gns at sales) and very easy to back at Kempton this month when 3rd to Scarlet Pimpernel. Better ground today will help and stable to be leared with their juveniles

River Beat: Smart Flat handicapper (four wins at around 'tm2f) for Mark Tompkins

and one to note for the tuture after this stiff introduction sie: Did little on the Fist and hard to terroy after finishing talled off behind Traluide at Newbury

Bird Nacin: No better than a plater on the level and resed in class after placed etforts in poor races at Huntingdon and Hereford VERDICT: DANGERUS PRECEDENT defied a 12th penalty at Cheltenham so

the changes are he will continue the winning sequence today. Dolgts D'Or and Masamadas are likely reprovers for their debut attempts in good-class races, and Itahabad come across a decent recruit in Simply Gritad at Wetherby.

THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS



Leeds lads choose the Devils' shirts

tona took himself off to Old Trafford have Leeds United fans been forced to suffer such humiliation at the hands of their great rivals as those devotees who populate the first XI of HMS Montrose. To their "horror and disbelief", their recent appeal to numerous Premiership clubs for a cast-off team kit met with just one response and you can guess who

that was from. It was either wear the red and white of Manchester United or just not play. But our brave boys in the South Atlantic have an unbeaten record to maintain (nine wins and one draw) against the likes of Uruguay, Chile and Panama so they swallowed their pride and pulled on the red shirt for Britain over the top of their worn-out old

Leeds jerseys. "We couldn't believe it when the only club generous enough to respond was Manchester United," said player-manager and Chief Petty Officer, Mark Minall. "Our compromise, a hot and sticky one, is to wear a Leeds shirt underneath. It's our only only option, unless Leeds United take pity and reconsider our request. Then we can give the red and white kit to our second XL."

THE NAME of Manchester United's latest acquisition was enough to make even Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke break out in a cold sweat, never mind Teddy Sheringham, Welcomed to Old Trafford recently with open arms was one D Law. but United's present-day strikers need have no fear, the individual in question being Diana Law: the daughter of the Stretford End legend, who was joining the club's rapidly expanding communications department as a deputy press officer. It goes without saying that Diana is a lifelong United fan, but despite being Manchester born and bred, the 25-year-old is also "a Scotland fan through and through", not that there are too many of her compatriots at second longest surviving manager. Old Trafford these days. She is the latest in a long line of daughters of famous football dads who have gone BBC weather girl Suzanne Charlton

to get all sentimental about a manager who has landed them in second-bottom place in the

table, but the esteem with which John Rudge is held by Port Vale fans - and the game in general - is high indeed. Today, at Portman Road, Vale fans will release 843 balloons to commemorate Rudge's 843 League games in charge at Vale Park prior to last week's sacking. It's being described by the fans as "a celebration not a protest against the club", who have been criticised for the manner

SONG SHEET

A stirring chant from Levski Sofia, Bulgaria 66 Bulgaria has a lot of natural resourses. Bulgaria bas a

nation on steam. Bulgaria has a little Bit of everything. But only one real strong Many teams are glimmering. But Levski is shining,

meyery to step along

in which they disposed of the game's second longest surviving manager at Villa Park because he finds the after Dario Gradi. However, the six-yard box with it every time. mood threatens to become rather darker at the next home game, against Huddersfield, next Saturday -when the fans will be releasing 843 black balloons. Rudge, who yesterday declined an "upstairs" job at Vale Park after 19 years there, may no longer be wanted as manager but he seems to be still in demand elsewhere; he spent this week coaching none other than Manchester United, at the request of Alex Ferguson, who, coincidentally, now becomes the

son - and lying in the top

half of the Conference they playmate, Sir Bobby), ITV's Gabby cannot have too many - a lack of goals certainly isn't one of them. Yorath and Sky Sport's Kelly

IT ISN'T like football fans brought up the ton for the season in the league in their 28th game, the only trouble is that their fans never know which end the goals will be coming at. No one in the Conference, or anywhere in senior football come to that, has bettered their 45goal haul, but at the same time nor has any team, apart from Crewe Alexandra, conceded as many goals - 55. Talk about blowing hot and

cold; the same club who back in August suffered the biggest defeat in Conference history - 7-0 at Leek Town - also registered the league's biggest ever away win - 6-1 at Farnborough – last month. After all that, today's home game against Yeovil Town will probably end up as a goalless draw.

CLOSE BEHIND the ova-

tions given for Messrs Beardsley and Keegan at the former's testimonial at St James's Park on Wednesday night was the one for Steve Watson's somersault throwin. It used to be a party trick of the Aston Villa defender during competitive games in his youth for Newcastle until he was told "no more" by the then Newcastle manager Jim Smith after doing it at a League Cup tie against neighbours Middlesbrough at the old Ayresome Park, where there was room for such spectacular manoeuvres. Given Dion Dublin's aerial ability, it might be worth his while reviving

COULD GEORGE BEST, party animal extrordinaire, be making a move from the fast lane to the slipper lounge as the

the act - though banned by Fifa -

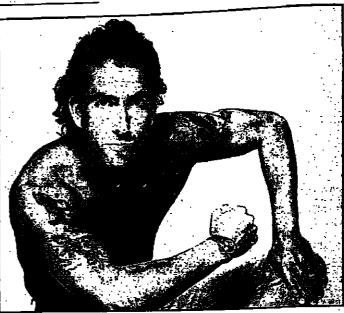
years catch up with him? When a caller to his local, the Phene Arms off the Kings Road, enquired about George's whereabouts one lunchtime earlier this week, the response from a member of staff was: "Not sure where he is." When pressed on what time

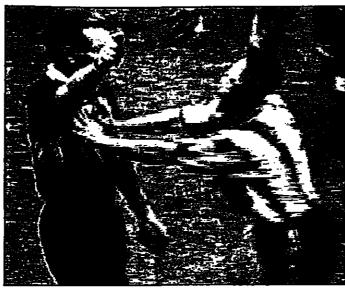
George might be expected in for his WHATEVER COM- regular one o' clock drink, the staff PLAINTS Morecambe member stalled for a moment and Only at the third time of asking was a fuller explanation proffered. "I know he was taking his wife out last night," came the explanation. "So Last week's 2-0 defeat at Stevenage I'm not sure he'll make it in today."

MY TEAM

AS YOU WERE







PAOLO DI CANIO is the kind of bloke you can rely on, as a brief perusal of his recent history confirms. As a Celtic player, he dazzled with his feet and wasn't bad with his hands either (top left), and although he walked out on the Bhoys. the faithful still cherished his tootsies so much that someone paid £58,000 for a pair of his boots

burn v Tottenham, Coventry v Liv-

erpool and Newcastie v Aston

Villa look the prime draw candi-

dates this weekend and let's throw

in marauding Manchester Unit-

ed to beat cheerless Charlton to-

morrow for some trebles. The

London derby on Murdochvision

worth a draw single tomorrow,

or Di Canio is that he might appear brash and temperamental, but he's not afraid to show his sensitive side and has even, on occasion, laid himself bare for his devoted followers. Ocooh, just look at the smouldering stallion (top right). How can you call him fickle? Say what you like about Paolo's time with the Owis (bottom left), but he didn't give a hoot about decorum if it

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

meant giving that little hit extra to improve the team's performance. He gave his all for Wednesday, he really did, but when push came to shove, he obviously felt he was a Hammer after all (bottom right). So no more doubting the poor fella, OK? He's passionate, devoted and true. And definitely not a loony time bomb on the make. Absolutely, definitely not that.

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Name: Toby Tyke. Club: Barnsley. Appearance: A cavorting, seven foot buildog, who rarely sticks to his job of promoting harmony between fans. Crime sheet: Enraged Manchester City fans aired their grievances to David Mellor on

the daughter of Denis Law's old

Six-o-Six after the dirty dog

cocked his leg at them on Boxing Day 1996. When City's fans decided to exact their revenge, Toby did not help his cause by wiping his backside on a toilet roll thrown from the Kop and returning it. In mitigation, Your Honour: After seeing his side go down 2-0 at home to Manchester United, the pitying pooch, alarmed at seeing the home fans' relegation-bound despondency, did his own version of the Full Monty in torrential rain. Off came his bowler hat and frock coat, leading up to the finale of mooning at a packed ORA Stand.

Other information: To look at Toby Tyke a few months ago, you'd have thought he believed in suffering for his art. Minus an ear, he was the nearest thing a mascot will be to a Van Gogh. Luckily, a few weeks' rest and a plaster quickly fixed the curtailed canine. Paul Stevenson

Television football commentator "I was born in the city, went to school there, worked on the local paper. There's a fad of people coming out of the woodwork saying they support a team but I can put my programmes on the table and prove my allegiance. We've always been a good cup team, as winning the Milk Cup 3-0 against QPR in 1986 showed. I covered the match for ITV and when we won I put my Oxford hat on at the end. That probably put my career back years! Lots of players come to Oxford and flourish, Matt Elliott, Ray Houghton,

John Aldridge. The people who go are a very loyal

bunch. It's a very special club in that respect."

JIM ROSENTHAL

OXFORD UNITED

IN T'NET

in a charity auction. The other thing about Sign-

FA CUP? Poisoned

chalice more like.

West Ham. South-

ampton Aston Villa.

Leicester, our ante-

post portfolio is in tatters. Still the

fifth-round draw threw up some in-

teresting possibilities and Arsenal

(ditto), Barnsley (ditto), Hud-

e, not in Eur

Found on the Web: Hoddle's cartoon England. THIS SITE provides evidence - via a South Parkstyle cartoon – that the England manager is an alien and that Wembley Stadium is his space ship. The site also features two games: in 'Swedish balls-up', you control Michael Owen as he attempts to head meatballs – served across the screen by Ulrika Jon-sson in a bikini – into Hoddle's mouth, and in 'Kickham', you steer a Beckham lookalike around a pitch and help him trip Argentinian players while he is being distracted by Posh Spice flashing her unhttp://www.hoddle.com/

SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

NEVER HAS there been a better time for Spurs fans to nip down to White Hart Lane and stock up on night attire. The series of games against Wimbledon is so soporific a few extra pairs of pyjamas won't go amiss and the club shop can provide many options. The real bargains come in the sale though, so what better for the retiring supporter than Tottenham leather moccasin slippers, in a range of sizes, originally costing up to £14.99 per pair, but now reduced to as little as £6? A win, perhaps?

LIBERO WAGERS Four £2 crebies with Stanley): Blackburn to draw with Tottenham (12-5); Coventry to draw with Liverpool (12-5); Newcastle to draw with Aston Villa (12-5): Man Utd to win at Charlton (8-13). E SUNDAY SKY MATCH

draw (52, 9-4, Ladbrokes). dersfield (ditto) and Fulham while larrupers Lazio can beat SUNDAY CA ITALIAN JOB (well in on a form line through banal Bari on their home turf in Bari v Lazio Villa) are all worth a punt. Black—Channel 4's Sunday Serie A treat. Lazio (£2.11-10. William Hill & Stanley). TODAY'S BETS: £18.53 (Inc. £1.53 tax).

Arsenal (£1, 9-2, Stanley & Tote). Leeds (£1, 8-1, William Hill). Barnsley (£1, 50-1, Tote). Fulham (£1, 125-1, William Hill). Huddersfield (£1, 125-1, Coral & INAL BANK: £100.

............................ CURRENT KITTY: £146.64!

THEY'RE NOT ALL DENNIS

Unsung foreign legionnaires No 24 MICHALIS VLACHOS: The 32-year-old Athens-born player started his career with Olympiakos Piraeus before moving to AEK Athens and then on to Portsmouth. Equally at home as a defender or left-sided midfield player, Vlachos adapted quickly to the demands of English football after joining Pompey a year ago on a

Bosman from the Greek giants. Obviously the European Champions' League didn't agree with him and he settled instead on the bracing English south coast and a struggle against relegation. Vlachos is very much a fans' favourite already and recently scored his first goal for the club against Huddersfield. Vlachos' hard work and cool distribution arguably saved the club from relegation last season. He was injured earlier this season but has now returned to full fitness and

BERGKAMP

A swift and defiant single-finger salute

UNLIKE MOST football fans because a man next to me had who know that moment inside counted them at half-time). out, I can't remember the first time I saw my beloved Colchester United. No matter how hard I try, my memory simply refuses to offer up a romantic August afternoon, sun beaming in the sky, as we rattle five goals past a hapless Hartlepool and with the Us. It just wasn't like that. In fact, my earliest flashhome game where we were beaten 1-0 by Mansfield.

in the old Fourth Division and were probably sixth in the table at the time (I'm only guessing here, but it seemed that we spent virtually all of the early 80s being sixth in the table). Mansfield took the lead half-way to the excitement of their hardy

But it's not the pain of their celebrations that I most remember about the match, it is the fantastic miss by our own centre-forward, Roy McDonough. With five minutes to go, Roy was one-on-one with their goalkeeper and we held I fall head over heels in love our breath, ready for an equaliser. Unfortunately, the luckless McDonough stumbled back is of a tragic Friday night in the mud, scuffed his shot wide and fell flat on his face.

Lower league fans will We were chasing promotion recognise the tragi-comedy aspect of this incident, which is why I can confess now that as the prostrate McDonough struggled to regain his feet, I shouted: "Go on Roy, there's still name for yourself." In response, through the second half, much the beleaguered striker rose slowly from the sludge, scraped

FAN'S EYE VIEW



COLCHESTER UNITED

By Radio 1 DJ STEVE LAMACQ

single movement turned towards my position on the teranother five minutes - make a race and gave me a swift and defiant single finger salute.

I mention this because, in my

a Colchester manager (after ence was more down to earth, leaving us in the mid-80s, Mc-Donough would later return back into the League after two years in the Conference). The managerial situation is

uppermost in our minds at the moment following the recent, sudden departure of our last former Us player who took over from George Burley (Mc-Donough's successor) and engineered our recent escalation in fortunes, including last year's promotion to the Second Division via the play-offs.

Wignall was the backbone of our defence when I first started supporting Colchester in 1981, travelling 10 miles on the bus to home games from the tiny Essex village where I lived. 18 years following the Us, this I'd given up going to nearby Ip- when we were 3-1 up). But Radio 1's Lamaca Live, along away fans, all 49 of them (I know the mud off his knees and in one is probably the most meaning swich Town with my Dad be-after nine games without a with The Evening Session.

ful exchange I've ever had with cause the Colchester Experi- win, Wignall, our tourist guide, powerful and intimate. Seeing Colchester changed my peras player-manager and lead us ception of football in the same way that punk and The Clash changed my entire vision of music. But that's another story.

manager brought a warm boss, Steve Wignall - another on the Layer Road terraces and took us to all-new adventures. We've almost been treating our time in the Second Division this season like going somewhere exciting on holiday that you'd like to move to permanently. We've seen all these places (glamorous Stoke, Manchester City... I even know one fan who has taken holiday snaps at every ground, including a picture of himself in front

of the Notts County scoreboard

simply put down his umbrella folded up his notes and got off the bus, saying: "I don't feel I can take this team any further." In his time in charge, Wignall did a grand job with little cash - Colchester are not a club

The return of Wignall as rolling in money. His departure has left me in a state of turmoil. sense of continuity to my time I was told the news during one of my BBC Radio 1 programmes and was barely able to speak for four records. Wignall's successor, an-

nounced this week, is Mick Wadsworth, until Thursday in charge of Scarborough. Something of an unknown quantity in Essex, his appointment may be greeted with some suspicion by the Us fans. A look at Scarborough's position in the Third Division will tell you why. ■ Steve Lamacq presents BBC

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

The least enjoyable game of cricket I've ever played in. There were two sides at each other's throats. Alec Stewart, England captain, after the ill-tempered one-day game against Sri Lanka

I don't have a great deal of sympathy with Stan. Stress is about the lad at Rochdale who has got three months left of his contract and a mortgage to pay. John Gregory, Aston Villa manager, on complaints

about stress by his striker Stan Collymore.

Shotton called me a prick and accused me of cheating The last time I came to Oxford I met some sensible. intelligent people at the

university. He didn't want to talk, he wanted to fight Franck Leboenf, Chelsea defender, on a row with Oxford manager Malcolm Shotton during last week's FA Cup tie, after Leboeuf went off for treatment to an apparent injury.

TODAY

They let themselves down, capitulated, collapsed, call it what you like. This was not an Alan Ball team. Alan Ball, Portsmouth manager, after the 5-1 FA Cup defeat to Leeds.

I said I wanted us to draw them but I was only trying to look big. Chris Coleman, Fulham defender, on his side's FA Cup draw against Manchester United

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THE INDEPENDENT

Goldberg denies attack on Venables

THE CRYSTAL Palace chair BY MARK BRADLEY man. Mark Goldberg, has moved to distance himself from criticism of Terry Venables in which he was said to have admitted that hiring the former England coach was a mistake.

Venables left his lucrative month to become a consultant to the cash-strapped club in what had seemed a pure costcutting move by Goldberg, However, when the Palace chairman appeared at a meeting of the criticism of Terry Venables in Palace Independent Supporters' Association earlier this week, it initially seemed that there may there and brought in many have been other factors behind Venables' departure.

Goldberg was reported to have told fans: "Did I make a mistake in appointing Terry Venables? Yes, I think I did and when you make a mistake you have to turn it around. You haven't had value in the last six months and I haven't had value either. I would never have made the decision if I could start all

The Palace chairman has also been quoted by The Express as declaring that: "The youth team is fitter than the first team and since Steve Coppell and John Cartwright have taken over the players have a greater level of fitness already. We never got into a situation where we played with the same players and the same system.

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CURRENT KITTY: ET-EF!

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Goldberg's reported comments were clearly at odds with the truce between himself and Venables which had existed since an end was called to the coach's £750,000-a-year, fiveyear contract at Palace. With Venables understood to be fuming at reports of the fans' meeting, the chairman yesterday maintained that his comments had been "misrepresented". "I deny that I have criti-

cised Terry Venables or his management of the team," Goldberg said. "I was purely talking to the fans about the fact that our plans for the future will involve playing with more pascoaching post earlier this sion, fight and fitness as we need to compensate for having had to sell two players of great skill in Attilio Lombardo and Matt Jansen. "That wasn't meant as a

any way. He was an asset to Crystal Palace while he was quality players at good value. The only mistake I admitted to was due to the financial implications of bringing in Terry, and had nothing to do with his management

Goldberg's version of events was largely supported by leading members of the fans' group who attended Wednesday night's public meeting, with the Association chairman Andy Gilbert saying that: "Mark Goldberg did say many of those things but he was not overly critical of Terry Venables. Some of the fans were but he was admirably restrained. He admitted he was on a learning curve and that although he had brought in someone he believed was a world authority on football, it hadn't worked out."

One thing that does appear certain, however, is that Coppell, who was moved aside from coach to become director of football before Venables took over, is now seen as Palace's manager for the future. Goldberg, meanwhile, denied reports that the entire first-team squad had been put up for sale to further ease the financial problems at the club, insisting that Palace now "had time" to consider their next move.



Paolo Di Canio (left) is put through his paces yesterday by his new manager, Harry Redknapp (right), after joining West Ham this week

Sunderland on the rebound

SUCCESSIVE CUP defeats will have done little to temper the ambitions of Sunderland as the First Division leaders travel to Watford today. The Wearsiders' assistant manager, Bobby Saxton, is confidently predicting a positive reaction to the club's recent disappointments.

in the League this season, were given some measure of their progress this season - and probably their prospects next when they were beaten by Premiership opposition. Last week. Blackburn Rovers shunted them out of the FA Cup and Peter Reid's team were beaten 2-1 in the first leg of the Worthington Cup semi-final at home to Leicester on Tuesday.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE BY WYN GRIFFITHS

issued a warning to the club's promotion rivals: beware of the backlash. "Ever since we went top, every other team in the division wants to beat us. It makes every game a big game." Saxton said. "We were disappointed not to win against Blackburn and Leicester - but we won't let those results

The Vicarage Road manager, Graham Taylor, sees startling similarities between the league leaders and seventh-placed

goods and who know what they're about," Taylor said. "In the 80s at Watford we didn't really have any tricks up our sleeves, but it was stopping us which the opposition found so difficult."

There will be some nostalgia but little charity at the Reebok Stadium when Bolton play host to Norwich. The Canaries manager, Bruce Rioch, returns to the club he guided into the Premiership in 1995 for the first time at their new stadium, which the former Scottish international helped to design.

spirit, players who deliver the first time back as a manager at been good but it's matches that the Reebok but I don't feel I've got anything to prove." Rioch's former assistant,

Colin Todd, is concentrated on extending his side's 11-match unbeaten run rather than the return of the Wanderers' prodigal. "That Bruce used to manage this club has no bearing on the match," Todd said. "The issue is that we're playing against a decent team. The ball is the

same as it is every other week." Brian Horton, newly installed at Port Vale, is preparing for his first game in charge, but even after years of experience he admits he could not have asked for a more tricky fifth-placed Inswich. "Training's about is the football match."

you want to be involved with and I can't wait." said Horton, whose new side are second bottom.

"But that said, I couldn't get much tougher start. They have been one of the best in the division for two or three years now and George Burley has got a great blend between youth and experience."

There will be another reunion, perhaps less amicable, at The Hawthorns where the former West Bromwich manager, Alan Buckley, returns with Grimsby. He is, understandably doing his best to diffuse any conflict: "It doesn't matter one bit to me. I'll let them worry opening game than the trip to about it. All I'm concerned

FA Cup reshuffle will keep replays

By Andrew Martin

THE FOOTBALL Association is considering a revamp to the FA Cup next season which would preserve the future of replays in all rounds except for

Proposals include moving the earlier rounds two weeks forward, meaning that the third round would be played before Christmas and the fourth round in early January. With the sixth round then completed by the end of the February, even after any need for replays, there would be a break before the semi-finals on 9 April. The need to clear March of

FA Cup fixtures is the result of next year's Champions' League games being staged every Wednesday in that month. Any Premiership clubs left in the competition would not be able to play in replays.

One further proposal, apparently backed by Premiership chairman at their meeting on Thursday, is that there would no longer be any replays in FA Cup semi-finals. although that could still become a key point of contention.

No final decisions will be taken until the FA's full council meet in March to discuss the issue but there is a determination at the FA to keep replays in the competition.

Kaba Diawara has completed his move to Arsenal, who are believed to have paid around £2.5m to Bordeaux for the 23-year-old forward.

Aston Villa are poised to sign the Finnish Under-21 international goalkeeper Peter Enckelman for an initial fee of £200,000. Enckelman, 21, was on an extended trial with Villa at the end of last year when he played a number of reserve team games. He is expected to complete his move to the Premiership title chasers once he has agreed personal terms with the Villa manager, John Gre-

Villa will also make further payments for Enckelman depending on how many firstteam appearances he makes and the final fee could exceed £500,000. Gregory has been searching

for a new goalkeeper as be is resigned to losing Mark Bosnich at the end of the season.

In the long-term, Enckel-Michael Oakes, who has been in the side since Bosnich damaged his shoulder against Coventry last October.

Birmingham City have accepted an offer of £800,000 from Southampton for the midfielder Chris Marsden. The City manager, Trevor Francis, expects Marsden to join David Jones at The Dell in time to make his debut against Leeds United today. Marsden played under Jones at Stockport.

John Harkes, the DC United midfielder who has gone to Nottingham Forest on loan, is not the only American player on the move. Goalkeeper Tony Meola and defender Alexi Lalas have been traded from the New York/New Jersey MetroStars to Kansas City Wizards for midfielder Mark Chung and goalkeeper Mike Ammann.

BASKETBALL

BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Birmingham v Milton Keynes (6.0): Chester v Derby (5.30): Edinburgh v Sheffield (3.0): Man-chester v Newcastle (7.10): Thames Val-ley v Worthing (6.0).

ICE HOCKEY

SERGNIDA SUPERLEAGUE: Sheffiek

augustus Superleague: Sheffield Steelers v Brodunel Bees (6.30); Ayr Soptists Eagles v Nortingham Paneters (6.30); Newcastle Riverlings v Manchester Storm (6.30); London Knights v Cardiff Devils (6.0).

Sunderland, in rampant form

However, Saxton yesterday

bother us."

"I was consulted when they were designing the stadium, Watford's zenith in the early so I should know my way 1980s. "Sunderland have team around," Rioch said. "It's my

Bari, their southern hosts, a

rough ride in tomorrow's live

game on Channel 4. Lazio,

beaten 3-1 by Internazionale in

the Uefa Cup final last season,

and favourites to relieve

Chelsea of their Cup-Winners'

Cup this term, went all out in

the summer to assemble a side

ITALIAN FOOTBALL By IAN DAVIES

made a sluggish start to their campaign and Bari exploited this by going to Rome and nicking a point in a 0-0 draw in the second week of the season.

However, back to full strength, Lazio have been awesome of late. They won their sixth Serie A game on the trot home turf. when travelling to Parma to give their hosts a 3-1 beating 13 days ago, and last week Lazio made it seven on the spin with a 4-1 demolition of Piacenza at the Olympic Stadium. That left them second in the table, three points behind Fiorentina. Lazio were besten 5-2 (6-4 on

told him to play for a draw-may find life tough, even on their Bari are at full strength while Lazio are without the suspended Argentinian midfielder Matias Almeyda but welcome back the Czech Republic midfielder Pavel Nedved. OTHER GAMES: Tomorrow afternoon: Cagliari v Juventus; Florentina v Vicenza; Milan v Salemitanus; Parma v Venezia; Pengla v Sampdone; Placenza v Internationale; Roma v Empoli Tamorrow nights Udinese v Bologna.

aggregate) by Internazionale in the Italian Cup on Wednesday

but that trophy has a fraction of

the significance of its FA coun-

terpart, and Lazio should return

to form this weekend. Bari, ninth

following their controversial 2-1

defeat at Venezia last week -

Tuta who sented the host's win-

ner claimed a team-mate had

FOCTBALL FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

TOMORROW

Birmingham v Bradford (1.0). Premier Division: Shefbourne v Cork City (3.15): UCD v Dundalk (3.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE

3.0 unless stated

SRLK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Third round:
Barnow v Dudley Hill (2 0); Badley v Castletord Lock Lane (3.15); Bramley v Leigh M R:
Devisbury v Siddal: Doncaster v Oldham St
Annes; Featherstone Ufformill: Hernel Stage
v Featherstone Lions (2 15) jot Wasses RPC.
Sudbury); Hall K R v Wath Brow, Hunslet v
Townmile (3.30); Meighley v Rocholde Mayfield:
Lancashite Lynx v Askam; Leigh v Norland:
Rocholde V Wigen St Judes; Swinton v Modergreen. Whitehawen v Selriugn
(2.0); York v Egrenons.

RUGBY UNION EUROPEAN SHIELD SEMI-FINALS

SEMI-FINALS Irgoin v Brive (2.15) Itierrand v Narbonne (2.05),

HOCKEY

OTHER SPORTS ATHLETICS: National Indoor Champi-onship and Trials (of National Indoor Are-

onship are inner per inner

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

FULL TRANSFERS Free transfers or undisclosed fees unless stated

unless stated

Jason McAteer (midfielder) Liverpool to Blackburn (EAm): Marco-Arabea Foo (mid-Relder) Lers (Fr) to West Ham (£3.5m): Paolo Di Canio (forward) Sheffeld Wednesday to West Ham (£2m): Million Sheron (forward) QPR to Barnsley (1.5m): Andreas Mayer (midfielder) Rosenborg Trondheim (Nor) to Aberdeen (£200,000): Same Franchs (goalkeeper) HudderSheld to Northampton: Glen Crowe (forward) Wolverhampton Wanderess to Plymouth Argyle.

LOANS/TRIALS

Gawin Stracham (midfielder) Coventry to Dundee: Gusy Whitetingham (forward) Sheffield Wednesday to Portsmouth; Darreas Ferguson (midfielder) Wolverhampton Wanderes to Sparta Rotterdam (Neth); Hugo Porfirlo (midfielder) Benetic Parison (midfielder) Barnet to Famborough; Micrau Adams (midfielder) Barnet to Billericay, Stobodan Kamiljenovic (defender) MSV Duisburg (Ger); John Markes (midfielder) Washington DC (US) to Nottingham Forest Marion Harewood (forward) Nottingham Forest Marion Harewood (forward) Nottingham Forest (Marion Harewood) (Nottingham Forest (Marion))

Advocaat puts pressure on Dons Bari face Lazio barrage

THE RANGERS manager, Dick Advocaat, yesterday questioned SCOTTISH FOOTBALL Giovanni van Bronckhorst after Advocaat, yesterday questioned the attitude of the Aberdeen players on the eve of today's Premier League game between

the two sides at Pittodrie. The Dons were knocked out of the Scottish Cup last week on their own pitch by the Scottish League Second Division leaders, Livingston. They have also struggled to put a run of decent results together, with their highly-paid players being branded under-achievers.

Games between the two teams have been fiercely competitive over the years and today promises to be no different, with Rangers leading the table and Aberdeen at the wrong end. Advocaat did little

By JOHN NISBET

"I've been reading that Aberdeen are desperate to do well against us. Maybe they should have been desperate against Livingston, because then they would have been

winning something," he said. to be desperate in every match if you want to win things. But we know this will be a very difficult game for us. It always has been - and they have some

Rangers will be boosted by

to take the heat out of the atmosphere yesterday.

only three or four games from

quality players."

"It is my view that you have

suspension, although Barry Ferguson will miss out again as he is still banned. Colin Hendry is also out with a groin injury, but the problem does not require surgery, just two weeks'

rest, according to Advocaat. Rangers gained a midweek 4-0 victory at Dundee and their new German goalkeeper, Stefan Klos, is hoping not only for another clean sheet today - but a championship medal in his first season. Klos believes that is the only

way he can establish his international credentials, having been dropped from the German ing camp in Florida next

month. "I knew it would be dif- LAZIO, THE best team in Serie ficult to play for Germany when A at present, promise to give I moved to Rangers but hopefully things will change in the future," he said. "It would help my case if Rangers were to win the title and qualify for the Champions' League." The Dons' manager, Paul

Hegarty, may opt for the experience of the former Scotland goalkeeper, Jim Leighton, ahead of Derek Stillie. "Rangers are playing well at the moment, with a lot of confidence, and the goals are flowing," Hegarty said. "We will have to be on our mettle." Celtic do not play until

tomorrow evening, when they squad that is setting up a train- entertain St Johnstone in a televised fixture.

capable of winning the Scudetto. Rome's big spenders splashed out £31m to bring Christian Vieri (£19m), the Italian international striker, back to Italy from Atletico Madrid and Marcelo Salas (£12m), the brilliant Chilean hit man, over from River Plate.

However, thanks to a plethora of early season injuries, Lazio

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE AND POOLS CHECK

RUGBY UNION 2.30 unless stated

Road)
TETLEY'S BITTER CUP
FIFTH ROUND
Gloucester v Henley (3.0)
Leicester v Leeds (3.0)
London Scottish v Harlequins (3.0)
Northampton v London Irish (2.0)
West Hartlepool v Newcastle (3.0)
ALLIED DUMBAR
PREMIERSHIP ONE
Bedirat Sale (3.0)

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMINERSHIP
FIRST DYNSION

Currie v Herios FP.
Jed-Forest v Glasgow Hawks
Melrose v Boroughmuir
Watsonlans v Sterling County
West of Scotland v Hawlet
Second Divisions: Edinburgh Acads v
Dundee HSFP: Rimamock v Gala; Kirkcaldy
v Biggar, Musselburgh v Aberdeen GSFP:
Selkirk v Kelso. Third Division: Berwick
v Ayr: Glasgow Southern V Preston Lodge:
Gordonians v East Ribride: Peebles v Glenrothes; Stewarts Mel FP v Grangemouth.
CLUB MENDURES Bark v Bristol (3.0): Canbridge Univ v Queensland Univ (3.0); Oxford
Univ v Bristol Univ, Worcester v Moseley.

NOCK EY

NOCK EY

NOCK EY

Wycombe: Bedienham v Bournemoutt: City
of Portsmouth v Winchester, Fareham v Turbbridge Wels: Gore Court v Bladcheath; Herne
Bay v Wimbledon: Mademhead v Woldingham: Old Whtgilfilans v Wolding Purley Walcountians v Chichester; Richmond v Old
Crahleighams.

DTZ MIDLAND PREMIER: Coventry &
North Warvick v Leek: Edgbaston v Olton

Ingham.

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST PREMIER:
Bedford Town v Peterborough Town; Bishops Stortford v West, Herts: Cambridge City
v Clacron; Colchester v Cambridge Unix;

SWARSES: World's Sherborne v Whitcharch.
NORTH PREMIER: Bowdon v Warrington;
Chester v Rotherham; Formby v Durham
Univ; Harrogate v Ben Rhydding, Norton
v Southport; Sherfield Bankers v Neston.
MEDLAND BANK WELSH WOMEN'S
LEAGUE Cardiff Achiele v UWIC: Newport
v Cohnyn Bay.
WOMEN'S INDOOR LEAGUE Premier
Play-offs; Sluigh v Brachnell (12 45);
Chemsterd v Hightown (4 45) for Crystal
Poloce).
WOMEN'S INDOOR UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP (11.05 - 9.15, or Crystal Paloce).
WOMEN'S INDOOR UNDER-16
SCHOOLS CHAMPIONISHIP (8.30 - 4.30,
at Crystal Paloce).

OTHER SPORTS ATHLETICS: National Indoor Championships (at National Indoor Arena, Birm-

Bethnal Green). SNOOKER: Regal Welsh (at Cardiff In-

Montferrand v Narbonne (2.05).
TETLEY'S BITTER CUP
FIFTH ROUND
Lydney v Saracers (2.15)
Richmond v Exeter (3.0).
Wasps v Waterfoo (1.45).
JEMSON NATIONAL LEAGUE Two
South: Met Police v Brackney (3.0).

HOCKEY

BHIL PREMIER DIVISIONS BEESTON V Southgate (2.0): Bourwille v Old, Loughtonians
(2.30): Brooklands v Reading (2.0): Guidelford v Carterbury (12.0): Hourslow v East
Grinstead (2.0): Feddington v Cannock (2.0).
Flass Divisions Bromity v Shelfield (1.0):
Chelmslord v Caford Hands (1.0): Half v Stourport
(2.0): Indian Gymthana v Barford Tigers (2.0):
Sea v Hannant (2.0): Loughborous Students
v Hampstead & Westminster (2.30): Oxford
Univ v Doncaster (2.0): Sk Albans v Lewes
(2.0): Surbton v Eastcort (2.30): Woodents
(2.0): Surbton v Eastcort (2.30): Promiter Playdris: Ordentsord v Southy (10.55): Hightown
v Bracknet (11.40). Brachnet v Chelmslord (4.0)
Slough v Hightown (6.0) (at Crystal Poloce).
WOOMER'S INDOOR UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP (8.30 - 7.30, at Crystal Palance).

LOANS/TRIALS



FOOTBALL

FA CARLING Blackburn v Tottenham ... Middlesbrough v Leicesrer

16 Swindon v Bury 17 Tranmere v Crystal Palace SECOND DIVISION 20 Blackpool v Macciesfield 21 Briscol Rovers v Colchester 22 Chesterfield v Wycombe 23 Fulnam v Northampton.....

23 Fulnam v Northampton
24 Lincoln City v Burnley
25 Lucon v Bournermouth
26 Millwall v Gillingham
27 Norts County v Reading
28 Wissall v Wigan
28 Wireham v Preston
30 York v Oldham 30 York v Oldham
THURD DIVISION
31 Barnet v Swansea
32 Brighton v Peterborough
33 Cardiff v Brentford
34 Cardiff v Brentford
35 Exerc v Plymouth (17.0)
36 Halifax v Rotherham
37 Hull v Shrewsbury
38 Leyton Orient v Darlington
39 Mansfield v Chester
Rothclale v Hardepool
Scunthorpe v Scarborough
Southend v Torquay
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
40 Aberdeen v Rangers

42 Hearts v Motherwell
43 Kilmarnock v Dundee
SCOTTISH LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION 44 Airdrie v Hiberman

Inverness Caledonian v Forfa
 Livingston v Partich......
 Queen of South v Alioa.....
 Stirling v East Fife
 SCOTTISH LEAGUE
 THIRD DIVISION

Brechin v Berwick....... Cowdenbeath v Oveen's Park Dumbarton v Ross County.... East Stirling v Montrose Stenhousemuir v Albion NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE

Farnborough v Woking Forest Green v Hednesford Hereford v Stevenage Kettering v Doncaster

v Bishop Auckland; Colwyn Bay v Whitby Town; Frickley v Stalybridge: Guiseley v Gareshead; Hyde Urd v Accrington Stanley; Marine v Wlorksop; Spermymoor v Lantaster: First Divisions: Bradford Park Avenue v Beper Town; Congleton Town v Gretna, Droylsden v Whitey Bay; Farsley Celtic v Trafford; Flixton v Witton Albion; Great Harwood Town v Burscough; Harrogate Town v Lincoln Utd; Huchtall Town v Achton Urd; Matiock Town v Roccible Borough; Netherfield v Easywood Town; Stocksbridge v Alfreton Town v Raddilfe Borough: Netherfield v Eastwood Town: Stocksbidge v Alfreton Town Dem DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Boston Utd v Atherstone: Crawley Town v Illuston Town: Grantham v Burton Albion; Gresley Roues's Varmworth: Nelscower Town v Gloucester City; Migs's Lynn v Hastings: Nurseaton v Band City; Salisbury v Baransgrove; Weymouth v Rochmed Town; Wordster City v Dorchester, Middland Dhaladon: Bliston Rown v Cinderford Town; Wordshort Town v Weston-super-Mare: Hinchey Und v Shepshed Dynamo; Page: Rangers v Moor Green; Solitad Borough v Racing Warwick; Stafford Rangers v Eestham Und; Stamford v Raddilch Utd; Stourbridge v Bedworth Utd; Statton Coldfield Town v Clevedon Town; VS Rugby v Newport (Gwent); Wisbech Town v Baladonal, Southern Divisions Baldock Town v Borbridge Angels; Brackley Town v Ashford Bown; Corby Gwen v Yote Pown; Darford v Fleer Town; Erith & Belvedere v Newport (Iown; Corby Gwen v Yote Pown; Partford V Fleer Town; Erith & Belvedere v Newport (Iown; Corby Gwen v Yote Pown; Partford V Fleer Town; Erith & Belvedere v Newport (Iown; Corby Gwen v Yote Pown; Rands Town; Magate v Grencester Town; Rands Town; Carby Gwen; Bashley.

Inwary Cheinreford City, Sixthgbourne v Andower, St Leonards v Bashley.

WHASTONLEAD REBY I LEAGUE Premier Division: Beckenham Bows v Herne Bay, Canerbury City v Sheppey Und: Charisam Bows v Deal Rown; Cray Wanderers v Slade Green; Foversham Town v Hythe Utd; Ramsgare v Erith Town; Thamesmead Rown v Crackenhill: Tunbridge Welfs v Greenwich Borough; Whissable Town v Lordswood.

UHLSPORT United Commiles League Premier Divisione Bourne v Ford Sports: Buckingham Town v Wellingborough; Desborough v Vasley, Eynesbury v Holbeach; Kempson v St Neots: Northempton Sperier v Wootton; Potton v Cogenhoe; Spalding v Long Buckly, Stevert et Loyds Corby v Bischstone; Stochold v Boston Town.

UNINET SUSSER COUNTY LEAGUE Press

Long Blackey, Servent & Loyes Corby v Blackstone: Storida' v Boston Rown.

URBIET SUSSER COUNTY! LEAGUE First
Divisions: Chichester City v Burgess Hill
Town: East Preston v Horsham YMCA:
Hallsham Town v Selsey; Hassocks v Eastbourne Town; Langney Sports v Pagham;
Portfield v Saltdean Urd; Ringner v Littlehampion Town; Shoreham v Eastbourne Utd;
Whitehawk v Broadbridge Heath, John
O'Hara League Cap seacond records Wick
v Redhill.

SCREMPIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Diviplons Bideford v Backwel Urd; Bishop Surton v Brisington; Chippenham Town v
Paulton Rouers: Eimore v Caine Town; Mangossfield Ltd v Bridgort; Melisham Town v
Bridgwater Town; Westbury Utd v Barnscople
Town; Yeovil v Odd Down.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEASUE
First Division: Atherton Collieries v Holker Cid Boys, Cresdle Town v Newcastle Town,
Kidsgrove Atherto v Atherton IR, Leek, CSOB v
Skelmersdale Urd; Maine Road v Prescor
Cables; Nantwich Town v Bootle; St Helens
Town v Glossop North End; Salford City v
Mossley.

Town v Glossop North End; Salford City v Mosiley.

Mosthern Counties East League Premiar Division: Armthorpe Weifare v Garforth Town. Arnold Ewen v Mality. Brigg Town v Staveley; Denaby United v Thackley, Eccleshill Vid v Burdon: Luersedge v Halam; North Ferriby v Ossett Town: Ossett Albion v Procening Town. Sheffield v Ponte-Inct: Selby Town: V Glasshoughton Weifare.

INTERLINK ENCPRESS Middland Alliance Bridghorth Town v Chaserown; Krypersey Victoria v Boldmere St Michaels, Pelsail Villa v Stopenhill; Pershore Town v Barwelt Rocester v Stratford Town; Rushall Olympk v West Middlands Police: Sandwell Borough v Halesowen Harters: Wednesfield v Oldbury Ltd. Willenhall Town v Salfnal Town.

JEMSON WIESSER LEAGUE: Bournemouth v Whitchurch Utd: Christchurch v Boroshenhurst; Comes Sports v Newbury; East Cowes Vics v Totton; Easteigh v Portsmouth RN; Fareham Town v Downton; Hamble v Gosport Borough: Thatcham Town v Wimborne Town.

JEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Dividedet: Falcenham Town v Born Jown.

JEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Dividedet: Falcenham Town v Born Jown.

JEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Dividedet: Falcenham Town v Borown v Histon; National Town. V Harther V Harther V Grant V H

City, Surthury Town v Diss Town, Warboys v Ipswich Warderers
ARNOTT RESURANCE MORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Billingham Syntholia v Seaham Red Star; Chester Le Street v Billingham Town; Easington v South Shedds: Guisborough Town v Crook Kwm; Jarrow Roofing v Consett; Penrith v Marske Lett. Shidon v Morpeth Town; Tow Law Town v Newcastle Blue Star; West Auckland v Stockton.
PRESS & JOURNAL NIGHT AND LEAGUE Brors Rangers v Peterhead. Clachnacutdin v Core Rangers, Forres Mechanics v Eigin City, Fort William v Buche Thistle; Fracer-burgh v Deverornale; Heanly v Lossesmouth.

Reith v Naim County: Roches v Wick Academy
SMARTMOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Divisions Ballymena v Newry: Cliftonville v Linfield: Crusaders v Glenavon: Portadown v
Glentoran Fires: Dhilaloox Ards v Carrick:
Ballydare v Limovsky Urd; Distillery v Dunganion Swifts; Larne v Bangor.

LEAGUE OF WALLES: Aborystwyth v Conrait's Cuay (2.30); And Lido v Comny (2.30);
Bangor City v Hauerforthuest (2.30); Barry
Town v Caersus (2.30); Carmarthen Town
v Caernarton Rown (2.30); Cumbran v Inter Cable-Tel Cardiff (2.30); Holywell v
Newtown (2.30); Rityl v TNS Llansantffraid
(2.30).

HARP LAGER WISH MATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Divisions Finn Harps v Derry City (7.30). Sigo Rovers v Bray Wanderers (7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE MDLY MATCH: Bradford v Hudder-

EUROPEAN CUP FINAL
Ulster v Colomiers (2.45) (at Lansdowne

HOCKEY

North Warwick v Leek; Edgbaston v Otton & West Warwick; Hampton -m-Arden v Khal-se; Harborne v Northampton Saints; North Notts v North Stafford; Shrewsbury v Not-

Crostyx v Ipswich. WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES

BASKETBALL BUDDMESSER LEAGUE: Derby v Man-chester (7.30); Greater London v Birm-ingham (7.0); Leicester v Milton Keynes (7.0); Shefrield v Thames Valley (7.30); Worthing v Chester (8.0).

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Noting-ham Panthers v Manthester Storm (7.0); Cardiff Devils v Sheffield Steelers (7.0); Bracknell Bees v Newcasde Rwerkings (6.0).

ingham).

BOXENG: British and Commonwealth heavyweight title: J Francis (Woolwich, holder) v P Reid (Sheffield) (at York Holl, Reither).

'It is a constant battle throughout my career in keeping the balance between calm and collected but also competitive'

Second spell is sweeter for Le Saux

A CHILL day in the west London Wastelands and White Van Man is out in force, parked up with the Escorts and Mondeos alongside a windswept playing field near Heathrow.

They are there to spot footballers rather than planes and there is a high-calibre collection the other side of the fence as Graham Rix puts Chelsea's multi-national squad through a practice match

The football is better than Wednesday's snore draw between Spurs and Wimbledon in the Worthington Cup although the players' kit is unusual. Of the 22 players only five are not wearing tracksuit bottoms, woolly hats or gloves. Three are young fringe players, the others are Dennis Wise and Graeme Le Saux. "Well hard, and a small blow for England," thinks White Van

Tomorrow afternoon, when Chelsea play Arsenal at Highbury, Le Saux will again prove that, contrary to the abuse he receives from opposition supporters, there is nothing soft about him.

The Jersey-born England international has become one of the integral characters in a fixture which has prompted three red cards and 33 vellows in the last five matches and 16 months.

"They are quite lively matches." reflected Le Saux when we met over bowls of pasta, prepared by Chelsea's Italian chef, in the training ground's functional canteen on Thursday, "It is a sign of both clubs doing well, there is a lot at stake and last season (when they met in the League Cup semi-final) we played them and I've got to get back." more times than was healthy. It

led to personal battles." pitch we are both quite feisty." he said. "I don't know him at all off the pitch but have known and maybe you do get a bit of history. I go and play against him knowing what I have to do

T

particularly nasty about them:

Le Saux's own feistiness has attracted adverse attention although his sending-off, a fortnight later, for a spat with Blackburn's Sebastien Perez, was only his second red card and his first for nine years. That, and a minor ruckus with Paul Ince - more verbal than physical - were factors in his ecent omission from the England side, yet he was recalled for the win against the Czech Republic and will be in Thursday's squad for the game with

France on Wednesday week. One theory is that Le Saux's aggression is a response to the terrace taunts, many of which question his masculinity, but the player himself discounts this. He has not changed: his and football's profile has. "The Arsenal games, for example, are big games, they are televised, it concentrates attention

on them," he noted. "When I first started playing, the main occasions I was

'I get a lot of grief [from fans], but I've always tried to look at it as a backhanded compliment'

booked was when I lost possession and chased back so hard to get the ball back that the ref would say it was a malicious tackle because the way you are going back looks aggressive. That's me being honest. I've made a mistake

This scenario will be familiar to Chelsea fans even now, Le Saux's were with Lee and Le Saux added: "Defence Dixon, who was dismissed in is not a position where, if atmosphere. You have to stand up and face it."

'And the abuse? "I know I get him as a player for a long time a lot of grief but I've always tried to look at that as a backhanded compliment - they wouldn't single me out if I was to win my battle and vice versa. a bad player - that's what you "They are generally honest have to say [to yourself]. There encounters. There is nothing are times when the game's stopped and you hear things

As a young player I wanted to play up to the crowd because you are all part of the same experience but sometimes it is so offensive it is not worth recognising they are there. They go on about kicking racism out of the game but when you hear some of the things said in front of children you think,

'what hope is there?' "But I don't think it shapes the way I play. I've always been like that. It is a constant battle I'll have throughout my career in keeping the balance between being cool, calm and collected but also competi-

He then provided an example of an early failure to find that balance. "My dad would tell you that when I was a kid in Jersey we would go to the beach in summer and there was a cafe about half a mile from our spot. We would go off and get an ice cream, my older sister. my dad and L and we used to run there. They were obviously quicker than me - I was about three and my sister five - and if they got too far ahead I used to have a tantrum because I couldn't physically

"If you don't have that drive and ambition I don't think you can get to the top of this profession. That's what gets to me. when people make flippant remarks about footballers and money. They assume we are only in it for the money but proper players would play irrespective. It is a great advantage and we wouldn't turn it down but you don't sit in the dressing-room thinking this match will earn me 'X' thousand pounds: you go out to win the game.

"I earned virtually nothing for four to five years, I lived in digs, didn't have a car, I didn't think anything of it. I'm gratethe September meeting fol-things are getting heated, you ful for not having had every-Chelsea player. "I think on the change your game to suit the reasonable values and hopefully am socially aware and can integrate with people without feeling better than some or worse than others."

With respect to the rest of his profession, not many footballers would describe themselves as "socially aware" and Le Saux has always had to live with the tag of being an "intellectual" among footballers. and you just have to ignore it. This led to his being largely



could be his own man – and coloured some relationships at Blackburn.

He seems much more at home in the modern Chelsea's polyglot dressing-room and admits the camaraderie will be one thing be will miss when he

gives up playing. That will not be for a few years yet and, though man- masses and later mentions

of Pat Nevin showed him he ball in another capacity, or go reer-threatening ankle injury would seem quite likely and he to earlier resurfaces as he has done some journalistic work, including a ghosted column for The Sun, which seemed an odd choice for a

reader of liberal broadsheets. In response to my question why, he could have talked about wanting to reach the agement is unlikely, he is the need to keep his name in

ostracised in his first spell at undecided whether to play on currency - the deal was dalous and didn't slaughter noted Le Saux of Chelsea's last lowing two incidents with the can back away drift inside or thing on a plate. Now I have Chelsea - though the example down the leagues, stay in foot- agreed during a long and ca- people, but I always felt a bit two games, "but you have to uncomfortable."

admits, sheepishly: "Yes, I'm a hypocrite. It was for the money. I felt I could justify it to an extent but it was a tough decision. I hope I have values and I went home and thought, I don't feel good about this.' I never felt I sold my soul, I got on well professionally with the guy who

wrote it and I wasn't scan-

Though a good talker, comfortable with the self-analysis involved. Le Saux's mind is now turning to this central London home where his month-old baby, Georgina, year and in recent years." waits with Mariana, his wife. Fatherhood is supposed to calm people down, which may come in handy tomorrow.

"We've been a little bit hicky against Coventry and Oxford,"

take something from it and the fact we can have a poor game and still look reasonably tight is encouraging. We are more resilient this year and that is the difference between us this

A 21-match unbeaten Premiership run is testimony to that as are the white vans parked up in hope and admiration on Sipson Lane. Will

Villa challenge 'in good shape' Babby should never

THERE HAVE been some very good weeks in John Gregory's life as manager of Aston Villa but the last has not been one of them. As Tommy Docherty once opined during a spell of turbulence: "If it wasn't for the League table there would be no

To lose a striker was bad enough, but Stan Collymore was not the only person at Villa Park feeling shocked and desed. There was also the littie matter of the 30,000 or so with home allegiance who watched the team being bundled out of the FA Cup by Second Division Fulham. Perversely though, both

events might prove to be blessings come May. The first refuge of a beaten Cup manager is the freedom to concentrate on the League and as Villa are joint top of the Premiership that is no mere trifle. Collymore's stress, too, at

least eases the selection conundrum of trying to accommodate him, Dion Dublin, Paul Merson and Julian Joachim into two forward places. As Chelsea's Gianluca Vialli has found out since his dropped like flies, not having to make a decision about strikers makes life a lot easier.

Villa need to make the most of the silver linings because a scan of their fixture list reveals they are entering a crucial phase of the season. They have to put as much daylight as they can between themselves and rivals still embroiled in Europe and domestic cup competitions because they have a tough finish to the season.

Their last three away fixtures are at Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal. They might win them all, but it BY GUY HODGSON

would be more comforting for the club if they have such a points advantage that draws would do. Today Villa go to Newcastle, where three points would throw down a challenge to United, Arsenal and Chelsea, a trio who do not play until tomorrow. To do so, however, would be to buck a trend.

"It has always been a difficult place for us to get points," Gregory said. "When we won at home in September it was the first time we'd beaten Newcastle in a Premiership match. so that gives you an idea of the problems we've had.

"But regardless of what has happened off the field this

West Ham

|4 Newcastle

15 Everton

16 Blackborn

week, we're in good shape. In the last six Premiership matches we've won four, drawn one and got somewhat cheated at Blackburn, where we had to play with 10 men. Thirteen points out of the last 18 is championship form and we just need to reproduce that for the last 16 matches."

Against that Gregory ought to be aware that Villa have not won at St James's Park in any of the seven seasons they have won the championship.

Wimbledon play in another London derby today, but before the rest of the nation yawns Tottenham are not the opponents at Selhurst Park. The fresh faces are West Ham, who are rapidly becoming unfamiliar to

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their fans given the way Harry Redknapp is altering his squad.

Mixed messages have been emanating from Upton Park over whether Paolo Di Canio will start, but Marc-Vivien Foe will be the delight of headline writers everywhere. Expect a series of friend and foe screamers from now on, particularly as Wimbledon include the former Hammer John Hartson

"John will be a handful," said Redknapp, who sold him for £7.5m two weeks ago, "but I'm sure he'll be the first to shake my hand at the finish." If Hartson can remove them from Eyal Berkovic's neck, of course.

Liverpool suffered more than they deserved when the Theatre of Dreams turned into

Taday William pit 6 Feb Argent (Mr. 1) Feb Hellin Fores (Mr. 20 Feb Lucypool (A)

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day, and their list of recuperative destinations would not have included Coventry.

They have won only one Premiership match at Highfield Road, although it would be a brave man to stake much on that because both teams are as predictable as the weather

At least Liverpool score goals, which is not something you can accuse Everton of OK, it is becoming a cliche to bemoan the lack of action at Goodison Park, but it comes to something when the home crowd moans when the fourth official signals a number bigger than "one" for added time.

At least today there is hope they can improve on their home goals tally of three as visitors Nottingham Forest have shipped them at the rate of more than two a game on their travels. Then again Everton have gone 239 minutes without a Premiership goal and guess who are just below them on

Southampton, walloped 7-1 at Liverpool last time, will have more than one club looking if they beat Leeds at The Dell, while Blackburn will be embellished by the debuts of Matt and Jason

McAteer against Tottenham Tomorrow Arsenai meet Chelsea in a high-pressure match that is not expected to improve either of their poor disciplinary records while Charlton, who ended an eight-match losing run with a 2-3 draw against Newcastle, play host to Manchester United.

United have lost their last two League visits to Chariton and their last win there was in August 1967.

an FA Cup nightmare last Sun- Kop the blame again

defeat at Old Trafford on Sunday. Strange as it may seem, it's got nothing to do with the savage twist of fate which robbed us of victory at the death. It's not even that it was United who provided it. No, quite simply, it's the fact that Phil Babb was suspended and missed the game. I'm not joking. What it meant was there was nobody upon whom they could heap all the blame. Normally they just rant and rave at poor old Babby for everything that goes wrong. Surely, you've all seen a copy of the script, by now.

"What a sitter Fowler missed!"

"Yeah, but it wasn't his fault, was it? Didn't you see the way Babb was stood on the half-way line as Robbie was about to shoot? Enough to put anybody

"Yeah, I noticed that too. Scratching his head wasn't 'Yeah. The pillock. Cost us

the game, that scratch." And that is usually that, Robbie off the hook Scapegoat confirmed. Everyone appeased. Still spiritually wrecked, mind.

But appeased, none the less. So, what about Sunday, then? Who was to blame in the absence of Babby? Who is destined to touch for the scapegoat role, this time?

Well, if you ask me, I say nobody, no one at all. Not Gérard for failing to bring on McManaman to help us procure vital possession. Not our apparent death wish after half-time to give the ball away repeatedly to a red shirt. Not even the referee for his Liverpool used to display (and

a lot of Liverpudlians about the Alan Edge longs for the return of a sadly-missed Anfield tradition

David Copperfield illusion of a foul by Redknapp which turned the whole game on its head. Not even that piece of nonsense. You see, I believe it's time for

a radical departure from all this recrimination business. Let's get back to the good old bad old days, I say. Those times when a cram-packed Kop could take defeat with wit and humour. We didn't need scapegoats

back then. We took it all on the chin. Take Babby for a kick-off. Years ago, the guy would have been transformed into a folk hero. We'd have unfurled a banner which read: "Babby made the Swiss roll over laughing, tripped over the Frogs' legs and now he's munching a Spanish Omelette". The same with the opposition. We'd have made sure that, where due, we would lavish them with praise and applause. Especially if they had deserved their victory over us. Like United did.

Because, let's face it, they did. No matter how valiantly Liverpool fought. No matter that, for huge chunks of the game, they were at least the equals of United. No matter that Jamie Carragher proved himself to be as good as any central defender in the Premiership or that, with Rigobert Song alongside him and playing a 4-4-2 system with Macca roving in midfield, we could yet sneak that title. The simple fact is, on this occasion, United, great FA Cup side that they are, showed

the sort of never-say-die spirit

signs of again). In the final analysis, that will to win meant United deserved their good fortune.

Now it hurts me to write that previous sentence. The point is, 🐧 though, I'm simply following my football education. That, you see, is the way the Kop of years ago would have seen it. To have given credit where it was due no matter how much it hurt. That was simply the way they did it. Such occasions have passed into Anfield folklore. Chelsea in 1966, Ferencyaros in 1968, Leeds in 1969, Red Star in 1973, right up to Arsenal in 1989. Boy were we all sick after those defeats. Massive stakes. crushing defeats. It made no difference. The Kop would always rise above the disappointment, even the loss of a League title. to cheer their opponents with a rare magnanimity

And do you know what? Each time we did so, we all felt enriched. It was like having a good cry. A means of unburdening yourself. Even though you felt completely dispirited, there was still a stirring sense of pride which seemed to sus-

In fact, this little nostalgia trip is making me feel a bit that way right now about Sunday's defeat. I just wish to God, though, it could have been against anybody else other than

Alan Edge is the author of Faith of Our Fathers, Football as a Religion.

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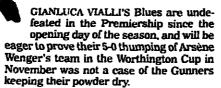
tain you until the next time.

those bastards.

Weekend guide to the Premiership



Arsenal v Chelsea



Past form, however, would point to Highbury's French connection having the edge over their neighbours. Chelsea have only won once in their last 16 visits to Highbury, by a solitary goal in March 1990.

One thing that can always be guaranteed when these two fierce rivals - who won all three domestic trophies between them last season - go head-to-head is plenty of fireworks. In recent seasons, Franck Leboeuf

and Lee Dixon have both seen red, and referee Graham Poll will do well to prevent things spilling over tomorrow.

BY PAUL STEVENSON

Key to their side's chances will be Emmanuel Petit (left) and compatriot Marcel Desailly (right). World Cup winners both, their performances will go some way to deciding this game, and perhaps the championship itself. Petit, fresh from another flashpoint at Molineux last weekend, which further enhanced his reputation as unquestionably talented but flawed temperamentally, has yet to see the FA rule on his latest misdemeanour. However, it's almost certain this game will be one of his last before yet another ban.

his side's cause, has been a revelation since his summer move from Milan. Even he, though, is a victim of Stamford Bridge's rotation system, a concept he is familiar with from his days at the San Siro. The Accra-born player has already hinted he will leave for pastures new if his side carry off their first title since 1955, the only time in their 94-year history the championship has resided in the trophy cabinet at SW6.

Although Chelsea are still in Europe and on the road to Wembley in the FA Cup despite the fright of their lives against Oxford. do not be fooled. This is the biggest game of their season, and it means as much to Vialli to wrest the Premiership from Wenger's

Desailly, the powerhouse at the heart of grasp as it does to the studious Frenchman to retain the crown. Wenger will have David Seaman available after recovery from injury, and aside from Patrick Vieira (suspended) has a near fully fit squad from which to select his side tomorrow.

With so much at stake, and the Gunners mean-spirited defence not easy to breach, the game might not be a classic. For the red-andwhite clad bastions of north London, though, and the resurgent massed ranks of blue who will arrive at the famous old marble balls, the significance of its outcome cannot be underestimated.

SQUADS: to be announced. on: Arsenal: Vierra.





Blackburn v Tottenham

Last season: 0-3

BRIAN KIDD will be without captain Tim Sherwood, who is suspended. Although the player trained yesterday, his future at Ewood Park is uncertain, not least because he has had transfer talks with today's opponents. Kidd could give debuts to striker Matt Jansen and midfielder Jason McAteer and must also decide who plays in goal. John Filan, who injured his neck in the FA Cup tie with Sunderland last week, is fit, as is Tim Flowers, who has not started a game for three months but took over from Filan at half-time last Saturday. Rovers are still without long-term absentees Chris Sutton, Kevin Davies, Kevin Gallacher, Damien Johnson, Christian Dailly and Garry Flitcroft.

Spurs' Andy Sinton is the most likely replacement for suspended David Ginola, who is injured anyway and is doubtful for Tuesday's FA Cup replay against Wimbledon, Centre-back Luke Young is back in the squad after illness but Ramon Vega is expected to keep his place. George Graham has to decide whether to start up front with Les Ferdinand - a substitute in the last two matches - in place of either Steffen Iversen or Chris Armstrong. BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): Filan. Kenna, Davidson, Peacock, Henchoz, Broomes, Gillespie, Wilcox, Dunn, Duff, Ward, Flowers, Blake, Croft, Taylor, Thomas,

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): Walker, Carr, Vega, Young, Campbell, Edinburgh, Calderwood, Fox. Taricco, Freund, Anderton, Nielsen, Clemence, Sinton, Dominguez, Armstrong, Ferdinand, Niersen, Baardsen. s: Rovers: Sherwood, McKinley Spurs: Ginola



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Coventry v Liverpool

Last season: 1-1



ROLAND NILSSON is likely to be restored to Coventry's defence against in-form Liverpool at Highfield Road after missing last weekend's 3-0 FA Cup win at Leicester with flu. The Swedish international should replace Marc Edworthy - his deputy at Filbert Street. Scottish midfielder Paul Telfer is suspended for reaching five yellow cards. Coventry have only lost once at home to Liverpool since the inaugural season of the Premiership.

Liverpool expect to have Steve Staunton and Phil Babb back today. Staunton has been suffering from a groin injury, while Irish team-mate Babb has completed a suspension. Karlheinz Riedle also returns to the squad after suspension but Steve McManaman will have to wait a little longer for his comeback after having a reaction to his ankle injury after playing for the reserves on Wednesday. Liverpool are still hoping for international clearance to arrive from the Italian FA to allow them to include Rigobert Song in their squad. Gérard Houllier is unable to call upon the services of defender Jamie Carragher, who serves a one-match ban.

WIO SETVES 3 Offe-Haltin Load.

COVENTRY CITY (from): Hedman, Nisson, Shaw, Williams, Burrows, Boateng, McAlisser, Solivedt, Froggatt, Huckerby, Whelan, Breen, Ogrizovic, Clement, Aloisi, Shifron, Boland.

LiveRPOOL (from): James, Heggem, Babb, Staunton, Harkness, Mattreo, Bjornebye, Berger, Ince, Redknapp, Owen, Fowler, Riedle, Thompson, Kvarme, Friedel, Leonhardsen,

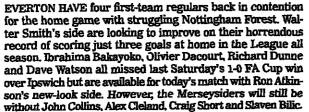
Suspensions: Coventry: Telfer, B Ferguson, Liverpool: Carragher.



Referee: M Riley.

Everton v **Nottingham Forest**

Last season: No fixture



Big 'Red Adair' Atkinson is ready to give debuts to three recent recruits to his all-but-sunken ship. Carlton Palmer, a £1.1m buy from Southampton, and loan signings Hugo Porfirio and John Harkes may all play. Bottom-of-the-table Forest, who are looking for their first League win in 20 matches (and only their third win of the season), will be without captain Steve Chettle, who is serving a one match ban. England international Steve Stone is available again after serving a similar suspension

but a calf injury puts his place in doubt. EVERTON (from): Myhre, Ward, Dunne, Unsworth, Watson, Materazzi, Ball, Grant Hutchbon, Barmby, Dacourt, Balayoko, Cadamarzeri, Oster Branch, Simonsen, Jevons,

Miligan.
MOTTENSHAM FOREST (from): Beasant, Harkes, Hjelde, Armstrong, Rogers, Stone.
NOTTENSHAM FOREST (from): Beasant, Harkes, Hjelde, Armstrong, Rogers, Stone.
Palmer, Genmili, Porfirto, Van Hoofdonk, Darcheville, Shipperley, Woan, Freedman,
Quasther, Gray, Lyttle. Dolg. Bart-Williams, Johnson, Louis-Jean. Crossley.
Suspension: Everton: Cleland.



Middlesbrough v Leicester

Last season: No fixture

MIDDLESBROUGH'S HAMILTON RICARD is being given time to prove he has recovered from his trip to Colombia before being picked today. The 25-year-old was on international duty in Bogota for his country's 1-1 draw with Denmark last week when the earthquake struck, and although he returned safe and well, manager Bryan Robson is taking no chances. "Hamilton was out of the way of where the earthquake was and it doesn't seem to have affected him," said Robson, who has a more or less full squad to choose from, although goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer has a flu bug which has prevented him training all week.

Leicester will arrive at the Riverside Stadium on the back of two tough games, losing 3-0 to Coventry in the FA Cup on Saturday and then taking a 2-1 first leg lead in their Worthington Cup semi-final with Sunderland on Tuesday night. Manager Martin O'Neill will be without his influential midfield pairing of Muzzy Izzet and Neil Lennon. Northern Ireland international Lennon is serving a one-match suspension while Izzet has failed to shake off a groin strain. Veteran midfielder Garry Parker is expected to replace Lennon in midfield, while Theo Zagorakis and Stuart Campbell are vying to take over from Izzet.

MEDDUESSROUGH: Squar to be announced.

LENCESTER (from): Keller, Arphexad. Sinclair. Yaggart, Walsh, Taylor, Heskey, Parker, Gupgy, Savage, Kaamark, Elliotr, Ullathorne, Fenton, Impey, Wilson, Cottee, Campbell, Oakes,
Zagorakis.

Saspensjons: Boror Summerbell. Lekcester: Lennon.

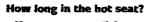
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Who succeeds on the manager-go-round?

OF THE 10 Premiership managers who have moved to their current clubs in the past 12 months, five have performed significantly better than the average manager might be expected to. Taking into account every League game since the inception of the Premiership in 1992, the average manager has netted 1.36 points per game. Of the past year's management newcomers, John Gregory (2.12 points per game, Villa second in the table) and Gianluca Vialli (1.74 points per game, Chelsea top of the table) have done extremely well. Gregory's record is all the more remarkable because his - albeit short-rerm – success even purs Alex Ferguson's 2.06 points per game in the shade. Ferguson of Alex Ferguson's 2.06 points per game in the shade. Ferguson, of course, has been in charge at Manchester United for more than 12 years. Of the other 'new boys', Gerard Houllier at Liverpool (1.9 points per game), David O' Leary at Leeds (1.79 pts) and Brian Kidd at Blackburn (1.71 pts) have also done well. George Graham (1.29), Danny Wilson (1.18), Ruud Gullit (1.15), Walter Smith (1.14) and Ron Atkinson (0) have lared less well

Of the established managers (one year or more in the job – such is the nature of being 'established' these days). Alex Ferguson reigns supreme, managing his 2.06 points per game for a span of 262 matches. Only Arsene Wenger of the other 'long termers' – having notched up 1.87 points on average from his 90 League games in the past two and a quarter years – has managed to sustain an above-average performance, although Joe Kinnear, Jim Smith and Harry Redhand have acquably done better on scant resources than their Redknapp have arguably done better on scant resources than their points returns might suggest.

Although the Premiership is only in its seventh season, Ron Atkinson has just been hired by Nottingham Forest to chalk up his fourth club. He has yet to reach the 1.44 points per game peak he hit at Villa at any of his subsequent clubs, so perhaps there is a case for saying managers might face diminishing returns the more clubs they manage. Ruud Gullit's and George Graham's (albeit short) tenures at their second and third Premiership clubs respectively suggest this might be so, although Danny Wilson is bucking the trend by doing better so far at his second attempt in charge in the top flight.



Manager	Club	Reign	Current Prem placing	
A Ferguson	Man Utd	12 yrs 2 months	3rd	
A Curbishiey	Chariton.	7. yrs 6 months	18th	
J Kinnear	Wimbledon	7 yrs	7th	
B Robson	Middlesbro	4 yrs 8 months	9th	
H Redknapp	West Ham	4 yrs 3 months	8th	
J Smith	Derby	3 yrs 7 months	10th	
M O'Neill'	Leicester	3 yrs 1 month	12th	
A Wenger	Arsenal	2 yrs 3 months	4th	
G Strachan	Coventry	2 yrs 2 months	17th	
D Jones	Southampton	1 year 6 months	19th	
G Viall	Chelsea	11 months	1st ·	
J Gregory	Aston Villa	11 months	2nd	
W Smith	Everton	6 months	15th	
D Wilson	Sheff Wed	6 months	13th	
R Gulfit	Newcastle	5 months	14th	
G Graham	Tottenham	3 months	11 th	
D O'Leary	Leeds	3 months	5th	
G Houllier	Liverpool	2 months	6th	
B Kidd	Blackburn	2 months	16th	
R Atkinson	Nottm Forest	2 weeks	20th	

Club	Manager	Games played	Points gained	Points per game
Aston Villa	J Gregory .	33	70	2.12
Liverpool	G Houllier	10	19	1.90
Leeds	D O'Leary	14	25	1.79
Chelsea	Ġ Vlalli	35	61	1.74
Blackburn	8 Kidd	7	12	1.71
Tottenham	G Graham	14	18	1.29
Sheff Wed	D Wilson	22	´´ 26	1.18
Newcastle	R Gullit	20 ⁻	23	1.15
Everton	W Smith	21	24	1.14
Notim Forest	R Atkinson	1	0	0

Cinp	Manager	Games played	Points gained	Points per game
Man Utd	A Ferguson	262	539	2.06
Arsenal	A Wenger	90	168	1.87
Derby	J Smith	'98	132	1.35
Wimb'don	J Kinnear	262	350	1.34
Leicester	M O'Nelli	98	129	1.32
West Ham	H Redknapp	178	231	1.30
Coventry	G Strachan	88	107	1.22
Midd'sbro	B Robson	98	116	1.18
Soton	D Jones	60	65	1.08

SOLON	n Touez	DU .	. 00	1.00
Chariton	A Curbishley	22	17	0.77
Big Ron in th	e Premiership –	Atkinson	's record	
Club	Period as managed	Games played	Points gained	Points per game
Aston Villa	Aug 92-Nov 94	98	141	1,44
Coventry	Feb 95-Oct 96	62	68	1.10
Sheff Wed	Nov 97-Jun 98	724	32	1.33
Notim Forest	Jan 99 - ?	too earl	y to collate	statistics

Statistics: Brian Sears/Nick Harris

		•			
Could Spurs be third time lucky for George Graham?					
Clab	Period managed	Games played		Pts per game	
Arsenal	Aug 92-Feb 95	112.	161	1.44	
Leeds	Sep 96-Oct 98	71	98	1.38	
Tortenham	Oct 98-	14	18	1.29	
Danny Wilson is with his second Premiership club					
Club	Period managed	Games played	Points gained	Pts per game	
Barnsley	Aug 97-Jul 98	38	35	0.92	
Sheff Wed			26	1.12	
as is Ruud Gullit					
Club	Period managed	Games played		Pts per game	
Chelsea	Jun 96-Feb 98	64	104	1.63	
Newcastle	Aug 98-	20	23	1.15	
Above average managers The men who've secured more than 1.36 points per game					
##nnn	⊘ lub	6	Balata	Dec nor	

John Gregory.

surpasses even Alex

Ferguson's 2.06 at

Manchester United

of Aston Villa

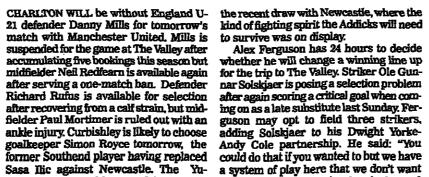
per game in charge

Manager	Club	Games played	Points gained	Pts per game
K Keegan	Newcastle	143	264	1.85
K Daiglish	B'burn / Newc	180	318	1.77
R Evans	Liverpool	172	295	1.72
B Rìoch	Arsenal	38	63	1.66
F Clark	Nortm Forest	97	145	1.49
H Wilkinson	Leeds	174	250	1.44
G Francis	QPR/Spurs	1,75	251	1.43
R Hodgson	8lackburn	46	66	1.43
M Walker	Norwich / Evert'n	96	136	1,42
D Livermore/ R Clemence	Spurs	42	59	1.40
T Francis	Sheff Wed	126	174	1.38
B Little	Leicester / Villa	144	198	1.38

TOMORROW'S OTHER MATCH (4PM)

Charlton v Manchester United

Last season: No fixture



to survive was on display. Alex Ferguson has 24 hours to decide

whether he will change a winning line up for the trip to The Valley. Striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is posing a selection problem after again scoring a critical goal when coming on as a late substitute last Sunday. Ferguson may opt to field three strikers. adding Solskjaer to his Dwight Yorke-Andy Cole partnership. He said: "You goslav was blamed for one of the goals in to tinker with. After scoring the winning goal

last Sunday [Solskjaer] certainly merits consideration and that is something I will have to think about." United have no injury worries ahead of Sunday's game at the Valley. Jesper Blomqvist is back in the squad after being ruled out last weekend when he picked up an injury in training, but Teddy

Sheringham is still out of contention.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (from): Royce, Powell, Tyler, RuIus, Youds, Kinselia, Redfearn, K Jones, Robinson, Newton, Hunt, Pringle, Bright, Koncheski, Parker, Brown, Jic.,
Lisble, Holmes.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Schmelchel, G Neville,
Berg, Stam, Irwin, Beckham, Keane, Giggs, Cole, Yorke,
Butt, Scholes, P Neville, Solskjaer, Johnsen, Biomopist,
and der Gene.



Newcastle v Aston Villa

Last season: 1-0



NEWCASTLE defenders Laurent Charvet and Andy Griffin will take late fitness tests ahead of this afternoon's game. Both were injured during the 3-0 FA Cup win over Bradford City at St. James's Park last Saturday. Steve Howey is rated doubtful because of the flu virus which kept him out last weekend, and captain Robert Lee is almost certainly out with a troublesome

Aston Villa will be without their nine-goal striker Dion Dublin for the second consecutive Saturday. The England international is still troubled by the groin strain which forced him to miss the 2-0 FA Cup defeat at home to Fulham. With Stan Collymore undergoing stress counselling, Villa manager John Gregory will again ask Paul Merson and Julian Joachim to lead the attack. Whilst the club's attempts to sign Juninho have taken up most column inches this week, Gregory is not allowing this to detract from the importance of maintaining a championship challenge. "We shall regroup, get everything in perspective and focus on getting something at Newcastle." he said.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from):Gnen, Harper, Griffin, Barton, Domi, Charvet, Howey. Dabuzas, Hughes, Speed. Glass, Solono, Harnam, Georgiadis, Brady, Ketsbaia, Shearer, Andersson, Dalglish, Pearce. ASTON VILLA(from): Oakes. Watson, Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry, Wright, Hen-drie, Taylor, Scimeta, Merson, Joachim, Grayson, Vassell, Ferraresi, Hughes, Rachel, Suspensions: None.



Sheff Wed v **Derby County**

THE SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY midfielder Danny Sonner is manager Danny Wilson's only absentee. Sonner is suspended for one match after collecting five bookings, which means Dejan Stefanovic is likely to be recalled.

Derby's Igor Stimac (ankle) could make his comeback after three months out. The Croatian has not played for the first team since 31 October but may replace Stefan Schnoor at the heart of the Rams defence. Russell Hoult is also back and due to make his first start since mid-November after Mart Poom cracked a bone in his finger at Swansea last Saturday. Paulo Wanchope serves the last game of a three-match suspension but his replacement Deon Burton is rated only 50-50 to play after receiving a kick on the ankle at the Vetch Field. If Burton misses out then Kevin Harper - who scored the winner after coming on for Burton at Swansea - will partner Dean Sturridge up front. Stefano Eranio (hamstring) and Darryl Powell (knee), who both missed the FA Cup trip to South Wales, are also available. SHEPPIELD WEDNESDAY (from): Smicek, Atherton, Jonks, Newsome, Walker, Carbone, Booth, Hyde, Sanetti, Humphreys, Briscoe, Stefanovic, Hinchcliffe, Emmerson, Rucil, Alexandersson, Morrison, Pressman.

DERBY COUNTY (from): Hoult. Laursen, Dorigo, Carbonari, Somac, Prior. Carsley, Bohlnen, Baiano, Sturndge, Burton, Harper, Schnoor, Powell, Eranio, Elliott. Koduk, Hunt. Knight.
Suspensions: Wednesday: Sonner, Derby: Wanchope.

Referee: D Elleray.



Southampton v **Leeds United**



MATT LE TISSIER is poised to return to Southampton's starting line-up. The Guernseyman has not started any of the last five matches after limping off against Premiership leaders Chelsea with a califstrain last month but he has now fully recovered. Club captain Jason Dodd (ankle) is in line for a recall to strengthen the defence that was torn apart in his absence in the 7-1 mauling at Liverpool two weeks ago. Gary Monk continues at the centre of defence alongside Claus Lundekvam. Ken Monkou serves the second game of a three-match ban. Francis Benali is out for a further three weeks with a broken arm. David Hirst and John Beresford are still out with long-term knee problems.

Leeds manager David O'Leary will have four key players back this afternoon. Lucas Radebe returns as captain following international duty with South Africa last week, while Alan Smith, Lee Bowyer and Alfie Haaland are all free from suspension. Left-back Danny Granville, who came off at half-time of last week's 5-1 FA Cup win at Portsmouth, is out with a hamstring strain, while Stephen McPhail is also out, with a knee injury. SOUTHAMPTON (from): Jones, Dodd, Lundelwam, Monk, Colleter, Le Tissier, M. Hugh-es, Howells, Oakley, Ostenstad, Beattle, Hriey, Marshall, Ripley, Bridge, Stensgaard, LEEDS UNITIED (from): Martyn, Haaland, Radebe, Wetherall, Korsten, Wijnhard, Hasselbank, Ribeiro, Bowyet Hopkin, Halle, Kewell, Harte, Woodgate, Jackson, Smith,

WWESLEDON: squad to be announced.



West Ham v Wimbledon



WIMBLEDON'S MICHAEL Hughes thinks John Hartson will relish the chance to take on his former team-mates today. Hughes, who joined the Dons from West Ham for £800,000 in September 1997, said yesterday that Joe Kinnear's latest recruit from across the capital will relish the chance to take on his old team. "John's looking forward to it. He's settled in nicely here. It's easy to settle in here once you've got the first few days over with. The big man is brilliant. He has worked hard. I'd like nothing better than to see him get off the mark tomorrow and score a goal, or even a hat-trick. It would be good for him and good for us."

West Ham's Harry Redknapp has injury illness and suspension problems today. Ian Pearce and Trevor Sinclair are suspended lan Wright (knee) and Marc Keller (hamstring) are injured, and Samassi Abou, Eyal Berkovic and Richard Hall are ill. Marc Vivien-Foé should go straight into the side playing a holding role in the centre of midfield while Paolo Di Canio has been named in the squad, despite Redknapp saying his Italian striker is probably not ready to play yet. It would be wise not to bet against Di Canio being thrown on as a wild card at some stage.

WEST HAM (from): Hislop, Forrest, Potts, Minto, Breacker, Lazaridis, Ruddock, Ferdinand, Lampard, Foe, Lomes, Cole, Kirson, Di Canio, Moncur, Ornoniymni, Hodges, sions: Wimbledon: Roberts. West Ham: Pearce, Sinclair. Referee: P Durkin.

THE HARDENING OF LE SAUX P30 • KAFELNIKOV'S FINAL EFFORT P23

Cricket: All-rounder destroys cream of Sri Lanka batting as England close to within one success of final

Ealham turns executioner

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY in Perth

England 227-7 Sri Lanka 99 England win by 128 runs

SHREWD OBSERVERS of the game recognised precisely what was about to happen when Sanath Jayasuriya lined up the gentle seam of Mark Ealham at Perth last night and flat-batted a straight six. The ball flew past the bowler, barely rose in height and dipped only as it went into the seats. Carnage, obviously, was about

to ensue. So it did. Nine overs later Ealham had taken 5 for 32, knocked over the cream of the Sri Lankan batting and all but ensured their elimination from the Carlton & United series. For England it completed an extraordinary recovery: they lost their first four wickets after being put in but a calm, unfussy innings of 81 from Neil Fairbrother took them to a land of undreamt of riches.

Not that 227 seemed quite so daunting when Sri Lanka were

CARLTON & UNITED SERIES

REMAINING FIXTURES Romorrow: Australia v Sri Lanka (Perth); 8 Feb; England v Sri Lanka (Sydney); 5 Feb; Australia v England (Sydney); 7 Feb; Australia v Sri Lanka (Melbourne); 10 Feb; First final (Sydney); 12 Feb; Sydned final (Melbourne); 14 Feb; Third mail via needed (Melbourne); 14 Feb; Third

65 for 1 in reply and opening the throttle. Sri Lanka must now beat Australia tomorrow to stay in with any chance of reaching the final of the triangular tournament. At the WACA, with the ball bouncing into their chests from a length, that is a prospect as unlikely as a counthing. There was some gentle try's captain escaping with a speculation that, although he suspended sentence for upbraiding an umpire.

Mind you. Ealham and the WACA could hardly be said to that. When Jayasuriya, who be a natural pairing. This is an ice rink of a pitch designed for tall, fast men who send the ball down rapidly from enormous height and reach the batsman within two strides of their follow through. Ealham is far from that. Perhaps he is not as small as his sturdy build makes him appear but he has a bustling, shuffling run-up which might have been copied from Harold (Steptoe, not Larwood) and the distance to the other Bounce and swift, late swing

are not his natural companions. But Ealham is a bowler who observes the proprieties. He might just be short of the necessary stuff to be a constant success as an international all-rounder but it is a near matter for panic.

No.3833 Saturday 30 January



Mark Ealham celebrates the wicket of Sri Lanka's Aravinda De Silva, the England all-rounder's third victim in figures of 5 for 32 at the WACA yesterday

had done nothing wrong in this tournament, he might be omitted in Perth: the WACA and all was beginning to flex his forearms, unleashed that stroke in Ealham's second over, the bowler raised an eyebrow only because the ball went so close by Otherwise, he went back to his mark and concentrated on bowling straight.

Jayasuriya had already escaped twice when on 11. A flick off his gloves was given as a wide. then Nasser Hussain out him down at point. Surely he would be more careful? But the openend represents a country walk. er could not resist a slightly shorter ball from Ealham which he pulled to Adam Hollioake at deep midwicket. Marvan Atapattu fetched the next delivery to short midwicket where Nick Knight waited. Sixty-five for 3 was slightly unsettling but not a

Last Saturday's solution

N R U I A V A SOULMATE GREASE C M I B B D RAINY YELLOWING

with the first one of the next he persuaded Aravinda de Silva to drive reckiessly at one which went away. It was De Silva's first match of the tournament, he was rusty but, as Ealham observed later, he is also one of the world's best players.

There was no way back for Sri Lanka unless their captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, could see it through. But having performed one miracle in persuading an International Cricket Council tribunal of his apparent innocence, another was beyond him. He was booed on to the pitch though the England captain, Alec Stewart, removed potential fractiousness from the occasion by shaking his hand at the crease. "I did it as a gesture," said Stewart later. "It was my way of saying that cricket is the reason we're here."

Ranatunga, Ealham's last victim, caught at short third

ACROSS

Risk removing end from part of church (6) About to be taken in by confidence trick, some-

thing providing much amusement (6)

Cut and prune wildly in

almost producing further beef? (6)

nicer about a high-class noble actor? (8,7)

Recording company ac-

completely what you'd ex-pect from the Rolling

20 Old actor causing amuse-ment in US city? (7,8) 23 Soldiers joining US sol-diers going round English

parties (6)
24 1 admit suppressing negative response may be stu-

Doing secretarial work in-volves one in an affair (6)

South African organisa-

erated country (6)

quired by group (8) 14 Girl - a gypsy's snatched

one back (5) 16 Fish described in book

and paper (5)

18 Pop music, loud -

ones? (8)

THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD

by Phi

Falham missed his hat-trick man, was also booed off the with the last ball of the over but pitch. Sri Lanka capitulated to 99 all out, the sixth time they have been dismissed in a oneday international for under 100 but the first since 1993. They have had their day in court this week but they will need more than a good lawyer if they are to defend the World Cup successfully in England in three

months' time. Ealham became only the fifth England bowler to take five wickets in a one-dayer. The others are Vic Marks and Darren Gough (twice each), Mike Hendrick and Paul Jarvis, which is a rare assembly and not the first quintet that would spring to mind. Ealham could not get close to Marks's all-time best England figures of 5 for 20.

England had an appalling start against some vicious swing from Ruchira Perera. Stewart, who now has 124 runs in eight innings in the series. was yorked, Knight played with

DOWN

against us turning up be-hind time (9)

Screen star provides Bill with lock of hair (7)

3 Artist upset as art
critic goes round University (12)
5 College element wanting
to ditch University

End of poem requiring lit-tle space? A good deal of

space (5) Vermin zapped by a Ro-

Stone in ring given to

11 One's ready for foreign

15 Feeling uncomfortable? I will, over a joke (3-2-4)
 16 Show less interest in de-

17 A source of water - vol-

joining Navy (7)

Weather warning

Hong Kong (7)

21 One who backs a new

stage being set up (5) 22 Shock upset, hang it! (4)

broadcast for half of

der replaced by substi-

ume's swallowed by chap

head (7)

man deity (7)

travel (5-7)

tute? (4.3)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thurs-

The instance correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next 1 minday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL, Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: S Hutchinson, Burnley, C Carter, St. Andrews; C Millin, Ramleaze: R Purcell, Hemel Hempstead; I Arthur, Derry.

1 Diplomatic mission

an open face. Hussain drove in cavalier fashion to be caught behind. When Graeme Hick. scorer of three centuries in nine days, padded up and was lbw to Chaminda Vaas for a measly 10. England had work to do.

Sri Lanka's support bowling was inexact. Fairbrother and Hollioake picked the gaps on the large field, ran the singles hard and made them into twos. It was in trying to do the latter once too often that Hollioake was run out. And it was in succeeding in doing so, at a stretch, late in his splendidly judged unbeaten innings of 81 (from 119 balls with just three fours) that Fairbrother twanged his left hamstring. It may or may not keep him out of Wednedsay's match in Sydney but it is becoming a worry. In the packed schedule of the World Cup such a tweak cannot be afforded but Fairbrother has become an integral member of this side again. So,

justifiably, has Ealham.

ENGLAND 38 mins, 19 balls, 2 fours) N Hussam c Kaluwitharana b Perera0

| Description | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonian State | Colonia

SRI LANKA D P M Jayawardena c Hussain b Gough... 16 mins, 13 bolls) ins, 17 balls, 1 four) Chandana c Gough b Headley....9

6 mins, 19 balls) PUC I Vaas not out 3 mins, 4 balls) ? Perera c Hick b Mullativ.

Rocal (all one, 161 mins, 33.3 overs) 39 Fall: 1-15 (Kaluwitharana) 2-65 (Jayasuriya) 3-65 (Arapatu) 4-67 (De Silva) 5-71 (Jayawardena) 6-85 (Mahanama) 7-98 (Ranatunga) 8-98 (Chandana) 9-99 (Muraikharan) 10-99 (Perera). Bomiling: Googh 8-2-15-2 (nb1.w1) (5-1-11-1, 3-1-4-1); Mailailly 6.3-0-17-2 (nb1) (6-0-17-0, 0.3-0-0-2); Heading 2-0-33-1 (nb1) (3-0-21-0, 5-0-12-1); Ealbam 10-2-32-5; Groft 1-1-0-0 (one spell each). Progress; 50: 60 min; 90

(5-1-11-1, 3-1-4-1); Multailly 6.3-0-17-2 (nb1) (6-0-17-0, 0.3-0-0-2); Heading 8-0-33-1 (nb1) (3-0-21-0, 5-0-12-1); Ealham 10-2-32-5; Croft 1-1-0-0 (one spell each). Progress: 50: 60 mins, 89 balls, 15 overs score: 55-1. Result: England won by 128 runs Umphres: 5 J Davis and P D Parker TV replay umphre: 7 A Prue Match referoe: P L van der Merwe Man of the match: Ealham

Korda wins but appeal

THE INDEPENDENT

BY TONY SMITH

PRTR KORDA vesterday won his appeal to block the International Tennis Federation from st tempting to have him suspends following his positive drug test at Wimbledon last year.

Mr Justice Lightman, giving

his verdict at the High Court in London, ruled that the ITE were not legally entitled to go ahead with their challenge, but gave them leave to appeal. Charles Flint, a lawyer for

the Czech player, had argued that the ITF did not have the right to challenge a decision by its own appeals board and decision by the board was and binding.

Flint said the ITF's anti-doping program is de signed to provide for spee and final determination of disputes as to allegations of doping before an independent expert committee."

In Korda's case, he said, the code worked exactly as it was supposed to do.

The appeals board took a lenient line after Korda said he had not been aware he had taken the drug. But the decision angered fellow players and many of them gave him the coli shoulder as he sought to **defer** his title at the Australian Ope last week.

There have been very few positive drug tests at termis and Korda is the first leading play

er to be involved. The ITF maintained that the board misapplied anti-doping regulations by merely taking away the ranking points and the prize money he carned at Wimbledon and not suspending him, after he tested n for the banned steroid

to believe it could be intended that there should be a second full-scale appeal, with the



Korda: Rare case

enormous costs, inconvenience to the parties and witnesses and delay which this would involve."

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He found it difficult to believe that the rules were intended to create a situation where a player acquitted by the appeals board should then be subject to "double jeopardy" and required to face a retrial.

Korda was not in court for the hearing.

The ITF had claimed that a decision can only be regarded as final if it is not appealed but Flint said that argument was in-

consistent with the code. "The programme is designed to provide for speedy and final determination of disputes as to allegations of doping before an independent committee," he said. "We say that a player should not be re-

quired to defend himself twice." Korda's case is a rarity in tennis, which has had only a handful of positive tests. None has involved a top player and most involved recreational rather than performance enhancing substances.

The 31-year-old was not wellreceived, by players or spectators, when he defended his Australian Open title in Melbourne last week. He was knocked out in the third round by Todd Martin, the man who. as players' representative on the ATP Tour council had to field angry questions from fellow players about the doping scandal and urged colleagues against a "witch-hunt."

World Cup guidelines target Olympic abuses

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE members of Fifa, who will decide on the bost nation for the 2006 World Cup, have been told to report any country which

offers "excessive hospitality". Football's world governing body has drawn up guidelines for the 24 members to be issued to all bidding countries, including England, in the hope of avoiding the sort of bribery scandal that has recently embroiled the Olympic movement. But apart from specifying that no souvenirs worth more than £70 can be offered, there has

been no significant crackdown. One report had suggested that England's 2006 bid organisers would be prevented from making too many foreign trips, but in reality, the only requirement is for a campaign team undertaking an overseas visit which does not form part of a more general footballing purpose to inform Fifa in advance.

By TOMMY STANIFORTH

FOOTBALL

taking part in next season's Inter Toto Cup, but only one place is on offer. Middlesbrough, Wimbledon, Leicester and Southampton want the chance to take an alternative route into Europe while there is still time for other teams to put themselves forward. Portsmouth have won a re-

prieve in their endeavours to stop the First Division club's bankers calling in receivers. The Co-operative Bank, which holds the mortgage on Portsmouth's Fratton Park ground, had set Pompey a noon deadline yesterday to pay an

outstanding debt of £350,000. However, Portsmouth now have until 9am on Monday to pay the outstanding money following a last-minute meeting between the club's directors and the bank. Portsmouth, who

£405,000 in unpaid tax next Wednesday, applied at the start of the week to go into administration to help rescue the club from financial ruin Ruud Gullit has dismissed talk of a rift with his players. The

from the Inland Revenue for

Newcastle United manager played down the speculation after a week in which Alan Shearer was reported to have had a heated discussion with him over his treatment of Paul Dalglish. "There's no rift at all," he said. "It surprises the players and the staff that all the time little comments like that are coming out," John Rudge, the sacked Port

Vale manager, has decided against taking up the newly created post of director of football at Vale Park. He plans to take a break from football though he has been doing some coaching at Old Trafford

Celtic's Scotland striker Darren Jackson is to join Chinese

Four Premiership clubs are facing a winding-up order team Dalian Wanda for 2500,000. have expressed their interest in Saturday 30 January 1909

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Friday's solution

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BOOKS TRAVEL

FERGAL KEANE ON THE CRISIS IN YEMEN COMMENT, PAGE 3

THE INDEPENDEN

Korda

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BY TONY SMITH

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Kardin Ran (28)

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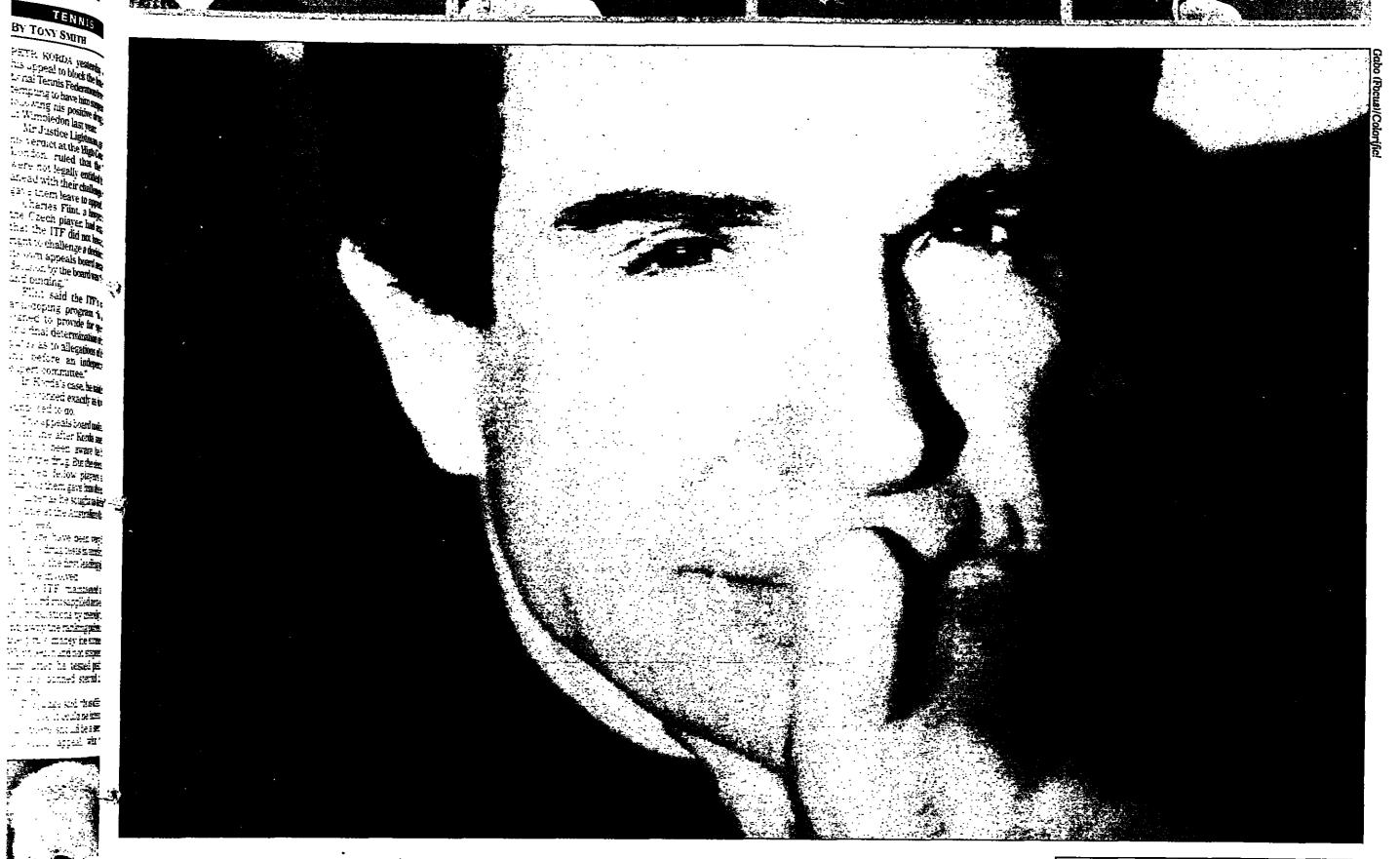
THE LAST DAYS OF ELVIS **PRESLEY**

BOOKS, PAGE 14



COUNTRY, PAGE 18





The Beatty myth

He's got the looks, the talent, the liberal credentials. And he appears to think that what the world needs now... is sex. At 60, can Warren Beatty still believe his own propaganda?

I'm Warren," says the man with the thick, greying hair, putting out a hand to shake mine, as if I wouldn't recognise that face, shrunk down from the posters and the movie screens. Warren Beatty is in town to promote his new film. Bulworth, and everywhere he goes he carries the weight of movie stardom with him. I was surprised to find that I liked the film - a romp through

American politics, starring Beatty as a senator who has a nervous breakdown and starts telling the truth, in rhyme. But what now surprises me more is to find that I like the man, who has been a star longer than I have been alive, but who still has an energy that keeps breaking through his cagey interview responses. Of course, he's deliberately turning on his famous charm - he listens intently, looks into your eyes as he answers, and expresses great interest in what you think - but the kind of enthusiasm he reveals for political ideas and ideals can hardly be a pose, since it has shaped his life.

Beatty started his film career as a beautiful young boy whom the camera and the audience couldn't help but adore. I've read interviews in which he compares the way he was in 1961 to Leonardo DiCaprio now, but, frankly, can you even begin to imagine DiCaprio deciding to produce a film like Bonnie and Clyde, as Beatty did in 1967? That was Beatty's own project. He found the script, he got it made, and it's still one of the most memorable films of its era, an unsettling, sexy cross between French New

Wave and American gangster movies.

Eight years later, he went out on the edge again to produce and star in Shampoo, and six years after that he hustled all over Hollywood to produce Reds, the ambitious, if mushy, drama about Communism that was to bring him an Oscar for best director. Now, after a run of more middle-of-the-road films, he's

gone right back into the fray, at the age of 61, with Bulworth.

"I think it's the hest movie I've ever made." he says proudly.

"It wasn't hard to do," Beatty says. "It would have been a ter-"And I've got a lot of reinforcement for that, because that's what

the reviews of the movie are saying."

Together with his blistering self-confidence, Beatty has exactly the kind of modulated voice, with gravelly low notes and long, dying cadences, that a movie star should have. He sits very still, in his black sweater and trousers and black leather Gucci jacket, and holds your gaze as he speaks. But although he seems pretty self-important in person, in Bultoorth he lets rip and invites you to laugh at him.

Bulworth is an extraordinary film, continually teetering on the verge of self-parody, as the old white senator breaks down, breaks out and starts dressing and talking like a young black man. Jump-

BY NATASHA WALTER

ing from joke to joke, it gradually builds into a fierce political satire. Because Beatty, who campaigned once upon a time for Bobby Kennedy and then for George McGovern and then Gary Hart, is now angry with American politics: "I think the process now has become one in which, if someone wants to win an election, he can't lead, he must follow, because the technological means are such that you're gaining so much demographic information so quickly you just has to follow it, and do it as adroitly and attractively as possible - and I think basically," he pauses for a beat, "that's a bunch of bullshit."

In Bulworth, Beatty finds a way of expressing the gap between politics and real life partly by displaying the weird dissonance between political discourse - "We stand at the threshold of a new millennium," Bulworth's speeches begin - and street speech.

It's a lovely conceit, as the senator bursts into patches of rap when he should be delivering crafted soundbites, even if the sight

rible mistake to try to rap well, so you aim for doggerel and you try to make it funny."

British movie-goers are used to seeing political satire in the mainstream, so maybe it won't strike people here how very odd it is that Bulworth got made in America now. Beatty explains that it's not a film he could have imagined making if it hadn't been for the fact that he was handed a weird, once-in-a-lifetime - even for him - opportunity. "Because of some complexities in earlier dealings with Fox. I was able to settle a lawsuit with them by doing this movie with them, on the agreement that I had complete artistic control and they have complete marketing control," he says slowly.

In other words, because Fox had pulled out of Dick Tracy, Beatty could have sued them, but he didn't, because he wanted them to agree to do this film instead. And, although he told Fox the bare bones of the story at the outset (a man gets very depressed, calls a hitman to get himself killed, then falls in love and tries to call off the contract), he didn't get round to telling them at first that the man would be a senator, and that the film would spend most of its energy exploring his disaffection with politics. Would Fox ever have agreed to it if he hadn't manoeuvred so smartly? "I think it would have been awkward for a corporation of that magnitude to make a movie with someone as attentiongetting as I am, that basically says that big corporations are the greatest threat to our democracy," he replies.

When Beatty as Bulworth breaks out of the political cage, he

not only starts rapping, he also starts hanging out with young black women. The sight of the 60-year-old Beatty getting on down with the 26-year-old black actress Halle Berry is something that will make a lot of movie-goers smirk. I tell him that I think he should have cast an older woman as his love interest; I'm tired Continued on page 2

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Iarvis Cocker talks to Joan Smith about his 'Outsider Art'



Why Americans fear death by anthrax



Confessions of a nun: **'What do I miss? Trashy** magazines and sex'



Is our film critic the only man in Britain who doesn't like 'Shakespeare In Love'? **PLUS**

Life with Jacqueline du Pré - by her char



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Off the road

Sir: Deborah Orr rightly concludes that drastically curbing private car use in urban areas is essential in tackling pollution and other traffic problems ("A new line in hypocrisy", 29 January). But this needn't be as painful as she implies, as long as we avoid equating the solution to car-dependency with "improved public transport".

Better buses, trains and trams are essential. But most new car travel is not former public transport travel. While public transport travel has fallen by about 40 per cent since the 1950s, car and van use has grown over 1,000 per cent. And many of these new, longer car trips are not easily done on conventional public transport. Improved walking and cycling conditions are also urgently needed. But, however good public transport, walking and cycling become, they cannot match the "service quality" provided

by the family car. A car is like the ultimate Swiss Army Knife - a multipurpose household tool combined in attractive, shiny packaging. People will give up this tool, but only if they are offered others which do the

same jobs. This means radical expansion of home delivery services, safe routes for school travel, improved local taxis, neighbourhood carowning co-ops, part-year car hire and a host of similar

Such services will not private car use is deliberately curbed. So come on, Mr Prescott, curb the car and set BEN PLOWDEN

Director The Pedestrians Association London EC1

Sir: Deborah Orr is right to comment on the commuting journeys made by some senior administrators and their staff. However, she misses the real

discussed is not the method of

transport that they select but

that the trip is made in the

droves for smears, wellwoman checks, HRT, mammography and The matter that should be

first place. An organisation as well funded and resourced as the Environmental Agency should be able to find a sufficiently trained and experienced chauffeur for its chairman living within, say, five miles of the Millbank

Tower in London. The chairman of that august agency, surely a very busy man, should be able to find accommodation within the same distance of his place of work. If he cannot, then within the City of Westminster and its neighbourhood are a number of highly qualified and well connected people who could take that job on.

The chairman is, after all responsible for the environment, and the environment is best protected by the reduction in th number and length of journeys made, not just changing the method of travel. DAVID J HUNT Tadley, Hampshire

Unfair to men

Sir: How grateful I am not to be a patient of Dr Brimblecombe (letter, 28 January). As a male GP, I have faced all the problems she so vividly describes, but in the next consultation, I am faced with a nervous, embarrassed late-middleaged man who has suffered from erectile problems for some years, who is frankly terrified or plainly turned off by vacuum pumps and penile injections, but who has finally plucked up courage to broach the subject with someone professional who he feels will treat him sympathetically and non-judgementally.

I wonder if Dr Brimblecombe has paused to consider what message the Government's decision to set down limits to the availability of Viagra on the NHS sends out to men in this country. As their wives and girlfriends trail in to the surgery in their ostoeporosis screening, men are dying prematurely in their thousands from heart disease, and yet here is the Government offering them

yet another slap in the face, saying their health needs don't matter.

If rationing is an attempt to be fair to all, then the Government might start by looking at how much is spent on men compared with women, and ask themselves if the difference reflects true differences in male versus female mortality. KEVAN TUCKER Fence Lancashire

Sir: Whilst a retired doctor in my 60s I had come to accept impotence as part of normal

Soon afterwards, widowed and enjoying a new relationship, the bogey of erectile dysfunction confronted me again. After veniatrie counselling, a trial of the latest new remedy, still unlicensed in the UK. proved unhelpful.

Later, a uroandrologist established organic causation amenable to treatment. He recommended androgen replacement. Testosterone on its own failed to restore potency. Next, painful injections into the penis of another costly remedy, freely available under the NHS, proved too repugnant to tolerate.

The latest reputedly "magic" cure became available eventually to nominated specialists. Before prescribing it, my uroandrologist sought psychiatric reassurance about the relationship with my wife. Before our joint appointment, Viagra became freely available abroad.

Tablets bought over the counter in Switzerland and taken in a low dose restored normal potency immediately, after 15 years' impotence. The benefits to the remarriage of a retired doctor in his early 70s and his pre-menopausal wife do not

need to be spelt out. The uroandrologist recommended continuation of hormone replacement plus Viagra and the joint prescription was implemented by my GP. Later, having studied official advice, she felt bound to discontinue the Viagra; it

seemed that the androgen could continue to be prescribed, but Viagra should be sought privately.

I sought reconsideration of her decision and, after reviewing my extensive specialist investigations, she resumed NHS prescription of testosterone with Viagra, pending the Health Minister's advice and the BMA's response.

It is anomalous that a joint NHS prescription. demonstrated as curative for a seemingly irremediable organic condition, is apparently to become impermissible once again, unless the proposed "list" is reviewed sensibly and promoted on an advisory basis. It should not deny doctors the right to clinical discretion individually NAME AND ADDRESS

Sir: Stephen Hill (letter, 28 January) is missing the point. The issue is not how often our fellow citizens "should" have sex, but how often (if at all) the rest of us should pay for them to have it. JANET RUSSELL Tollesbury, Essex

Free the hens

SUPPLIED

Sir: I was pleased to read Nicholas Schoon's article outlining the cruelty inherent in battery farming and urging the Government to take the lead in securing a ban ("Assault and battery", 27 January)

The RSPCA has been campaigning for many years for an end to the battery cage system and for clear, mandatory labelling on eggs so that consumers know exactly how they have been produced.

Last year we commissioned a Mori survey which showed that 77 per cent of shoppers were prepared to pay more for free-range eggs, while 89 per cent of people believed that eggs produced from hens living in battery cages should be labelled as

Freedom Food, the RSPCA's own food welfare

labelling scheme, only endorses free range and barn systems that employ high welfare standards devised and monitored by the society. The huge success of the

scheme is proof of the public's growing demand for welfare friendly products and demonstrates that such alternative systems are financially viable. The future of the egg industry rests with

> consumers. To help remove the battery cage, shoppers must vote with their purses. PETER DAVIES Director General RSPCA Horsham, West Sussex

Blair's choice

story", 25 January).

choice for his daughter of a high-achieving school seven miles from his home is very much a matter of public interest in the light of the difficulties many parents face at this time of year ("Blair protests to PCC about school

As a Catholic parent in a

borough where the Labourcontrolled authority has decided to discontinue funding 70 places for Catholic children at a high-achieving school seven miles from my home and outside the borough I am fascinated by the story. The effect will be to deny a significant number of children a Catholic education, a choice which the Blairs apparently hold precious. As a resident of a borough where a selective 11plus system is retained but under threat due to government legislation I also note that the Prime Minister's daughter had allegedly taken some form of

test to assess her ability. He has made pragmatic and understandable efforts to attain the best education for his children in the state system. Many parents strive to do the same. To pretend that in some way his choice signifies a commitment to state education is unpalatable. Only when we have "education, education, education" for all children,

regardless of wealth and

social background, in a system which respects the able, can hìs own views and his party's policies be respected. PETER MONAGHAN

Manchester

Loo role

Sir. Malcolm Jackson Getter, 29 January) misses the point

about toilet cleaning The New Man can clean as many toilets, change as many nappies, vacuum as many floors or cook as many meals as he wants, but sooner of later the Old Woman will come along and say it's not good enough because only a woman can do these things property.

And do you have a problem GEOFF THOMASON Stockport, Cheshire

IN BRIEF

Sir. Surely there is no secret about "the real basis on which a British Cabinet will decide our entry into the euro" ("End this insulting culture of secrecy", 28 January)? It is the answer to the question, "Will entry win or lose us the next election?' CHRISTINE ROE

Sir: I enjoyed the picture of stepladders outside Annabel Elliot's 50th birthday party (Front page, 29 January). I now look forward, in the course of time, to your coverage of the funeral of the 18th Earl of Strathmore's great aunt. The Rev PETER KETTLE London SW19

Sir: British Summer Time ended last year about seven weeks before the winter solstice. Why do we have to endure GMT until 28 March? If we must be subjected to it, why can't GMT end seven weeks after the solstice, at the end of next week? Daylight hours will be the same as they were when BST ended in the autumn.

Mrs Susan Chesters Winchester

'He believes sex is not just fun. It's the answer'

Continued from page one of seeing ageing stars like himself. Robert stop her going in for the clinch. Redford, Clint Eastwood and Woody Allen, thinking they can still play sex gods. Can't he come to terms with his age?

"I could have done you a very interesting film about me and a woman who's 45 or 55 or 60," he says defensively. "But that

The Beatty myth meant to be." At least the film is honest about the age gap. "How old do you think I am?" Bulworth asks Berry on screen. "Sixty," she flashes back. But that doesn't

It makes you smirk, because as much as Beatty is known for being a great actor and an interesting director, he's also known, of course, for his sex life. (Woody Allen once said that if he were reincarnated, he would come back as Warren Beatwasn't the story here. Here, the fact that ty's fingertips.) In any interview with him you've got an old white guy and a young black woman is the point. I don't think anyone can be left with the feeling that this is an ideal couple - it's a real mismatch. It's Macpherson, Isabelle Adjani...



Generation gap: Berry and Beatty

"You get slapped a lot, but you get fucked a lot too," is how Beatty reputedly describes his wayward approach to matters of the heart in Peter Biskind's book Easy Riders, Raging Bulls. A man who sleeps with so many women - although he has now settled down with the actor Annette Bening and their three children - might be assumed to be boringly sexist. But his films don't just frame pretty faces, they give women good roles - even Bonnie and Clude gives Faye Dunaway a curiously independent, sassy voice; Reds gave Diane Keaton the meatiest part as the writer and feminist Louise Bryant. And in Bulworth. Halle Berry is partly just the gorgeous girl

at the club, but also the articulate woman maybe that will positively affect the divorce who surprises both Bulworth and the audiences by delivering a long, complicated peroration when asked why there aren't any black leaders any more. "Can you handle that?" she finishes, and Bulworth's

Like the real Seventies man that he is, Beatty seems to believe that sex is not just fun, it's also the answer. He believes that the Clinton-Lewinsky affair will now have a good effect. "I think the eventual fall-out from this farce will be that it will no longer to be possible for America to return to the sexual puritanism of the past," he says, "If there is a lowering of sexual puritanism,

rate in the US, which is the highest in the world. I think the sacrificial lambs in this process are the President and people in the public eye who have been pilloried for their sexual foolishness. Many of whom," he winds up, "are friends of mine. And some of whom are me." He giggles. As Bulworth, Beatty puts the same answer to America's racial problems: "Everyone has got to keep fucking each other till we're all the same colour"

You can mock the sentiment, or sympathise, but you get the feeling that Beatty, with his "make love, not war" optimism. is now out of his time.

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THE WEEKEND REVIEW .

Talk of regulating the global economy is wrong, Mr Brown

THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer has a plan, and he is trying to drum up support for it in Davos at the regular big-picture talk-fest of the world's finance ministers. He wants to "do something" about the instability of global financial markets. It must be hoped that one of his fellow ministers will adopt the role of Canute, take him to a dealing-floor in Zurich and demand that the traders desist from panicking, wild fluctuation and overshooting.

When Mr Brown's plan is analysed, however, it turns out to have little substance beyond urging governments, central banks and the IMF to insist on greater "transparency" in financial markets - which is just as well. Transparency is the latest buzz-word, meaning markets should be open and based on full information so that the authorities can react quickly to any signs of trouble. Vague talk of a global financial regulator will probably mean a committee of the global great and good to talk about Very Important Things, while suggestions for a global "lender of last resort" mean beefing up the IMF's resources. Mr Brown is in favour of virtue, and against sin. Any more substance than that would be dangerous.

The increasing integration of the world economy, a process known loosely, and on the whole rather unhelpfully, as "globalisation", is something that touches on all our lives, and it is right that our politicians should be struggling to come to terms with it. Indeed, one of Mr Brown's great achievements has been to reverse entirely the Labour Party's isolationist economic policy.

So it is disappointing that he should fall prey to the temptation so often laid before politicians of wanting to be seen to be "doing something" about things about which nothing can - or should - be done. He should declare clearly that mega-mergers, such as Ford's takeover of Volvo, should not alarm us. It would not matter if, as predicted, there were soon to be just six mass car producers in the world; local markets would still be highly competitive, and the structure of the industry has changed, with the making of parts contracted out to a vast network of small, competitive companies.

And he should reject any idea of trying to regulate the flow of money around the world. There has been far too much excitement among old leftists - such as those of Marxism Today, who resurrected themselves last year for a one-off blast against the Labour Government - over the apparent recantation of one free-market economist who was influential with New Labour. Paul Krugman of MIT wrote last year of the need for developing countries to impose capital controls in order to defend themselves from "self-fulfilling speculative attacks" on their currencies. But that can be effective only in the shortest of terms. Most countries today need capital investment from outside, and cutting themselves off from world markets is damaging. Equally, while markets may overshoot, governments make mistakes, and markets tend to self-correct more quickly than governments.

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IN BRIEF

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Mr Brown's language of governmental activism risks giving credence to unworkable and undesirable schemes for a global tax on currency transactions. Instead, he should use his platform in Davos to restate strongly his belief that it is the role of governments to help their peoples rise to, and benefit from, the challenges of international competition - and that this is preferable to trying to protect people from the storm of economic



Feminism is still a cause to fight for

GERMAINE GREER has got her bus pass. She turned 60 yesterday, which gives pause for thought to those for whom it was heaven to be young in the dawn of the sexual revolution. Time for yet another appraisal of what feminism has achieved, and whether there is still a battle to be fought? Hardly. It should be universally accepted that the women's movement has achieved a great deal: that young women today owe many of their freedoms and opportunities to the courage and spirit of Professor Greer and her contemporaries.

It should also be accepted that women still have a long way to go before they can regard the battle for true equality as won. That is more controversial. There has been a backlash among men, not simply of the laddish and Loaded variety, but also of the confused and defensive kind (are the two kinds by any chance related?). There has been something of a backlash on the female side, too, epitomised by Bridget Jones and Ally McBeal, though heavily offset by a knowing, post-feminist irony. Revolutionary fervour among true believers has dimmed too, as the battle has moved from the fierce passions of the applecart-upsetters and academics into the more complex field of popular culture, infiltrating the ways in which the vast majority of people live day to day. The struggle is still being carried on in the prosaic the-

atres of the industrial tribunals; the labour market has been transformed, and yet the glass ceilings still have only a few skylights in them. There is only one woman - Marjorie Scardino - heading a FTSE 100 company, for example. On the other hand, the Government this week lived up to its responsibility with a Bill to promote "fairness at work" that sought to encourage the further feminisation of the workplace. Much of the family-friendly presentation was spin, but it is significant that what would once have been regarded as strident demands for the impossible should now be seen as feel-good public relations. And, however modest, the measures for unpaid parental leave for fathers and longer maternity leave for mothers will make a real difference.

Feminism has left its mark on the English language: the style book for this newspaper insists on "firefighter" and tries to avoid "he" as a general singular pronoun. That change is hardly complete, either, but the cutting edge has gone, leaving us with the partially accepted "Ms" and a lot of pointless confusion. This week, for example, Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons, required Nick Gibb, a Conservative MP to apologise for describing Dawn Primarolo, a Treasury minister, as a "stupid woman". Mr Gibb may be a stupid man, if that is the best insult he can dredge from his limited vocabulary, but to say so is absolutely not to insult the 48 per cent of the population who are male.

How, then, is feminism to be carried forward from this stalemate of unfinished business? The important point is that carrying on the torch is not women's burden alone

- those who are looking for the "new Germaine Greer" may be looking for spokespeople (no, that is not approved by The Independent style book) of the wrong sex. This is not simply a matter of the strange inversion by which the only people who call themselves feminists these days seem to be men. It has become a commonplace to observe that men are increasingly demanding, or in some cases simply assuming, more responsibility for bringing up their children - often the same men who have strutted their New Lad political incorrectness, the same men who complain that women's rights have "gone too far".

Long after the slogan was coined in Professor Greer's heyday, "the personal is political", the full implications of that are working through. If women are to achieve meaningful equality of status and respect, they have to renegotiate the whole web of intimate relationships that make up a society, and the cultural assumptions governing them. So the battle has necessarily moved far beyond the simple slogans and ideological certainties of the early days. Some of the obstacles to true equality have turned out to be as intractable as they were unexpected. It has turned out not to be so easy for working parents to leave their children in the care of others. for example, and the fear of child sex abuse has meant that men can never be as trusted as women in the caring role. It will not be for a few charismatic leaders to negotiate the bazardous route; the torch of feminism will be carried forward by millions of people, both men and women. Happy birthday, Germaine.

So do you regard Shahid and Malek as fellow countrymen?

first heard that five "Britons" had been cops - every other day - stopping black arrested in Yemen? Alarm? Perhaps men and searching them, I don't a touch of outrage? Did you feel an really pay much attention. And the instinctive twinge of pity that five of racist "Pakis out" graffito that pops up now and again on the slides and wings in the local playground? Just the may even have felt the urge to pick up a pen and write to the newspapers, maybe even demand that the Government do something.

And then in the next breath, when you heard that their names were Shahid, Ghulam, Malek, Mohsin and Sirmad, when the penny dropped that they were not white "Britons", did you feel some mitigation of your anger? And when the Yemeni authorities announced that these not-quite-true Brits had been planning a campaign of terrorist attacks against Westerners, did you feel that everything was falling into place, that this was precisely what you expected from men with names like Shahid, Ghulam, Malek, Mohsin and Sirmad?

If the answer is yes to all or most of the above questions, I rather suspect that you are part of a majority. Not a right-wing, xenophobic majority, but a liberal one that likes to think of itself as tolerant on issues of race, and believes that by and large Britain is not a racist society.

I like to think of myself as one of those liberals. I have often compared acial attitudes in Britain to those in The United States and come away feeling that things here are a lot better. I have dismissed as unrepresentative the three incidents of racist abuse all by whites against blacks - that I have witnessed since I started living in London a year ago.

When I drive through Shepherds

SO WHAT was your reaction when you Bush on my way to work and see white wings in the local playground? Just the work of kids with nothing better to do, J tell myself.

> I don't have many black or Asian friends here: I don't meet a great many in my daily rounds; but by and large I have been impressed with the way that people of all races seem to get on with each other.

> Have I been too complacent? Unfortunately, I think the answer is yes. It has taken the unhappy saga of the Yemen arrests to shake my casual assumptions about race in Britain. For I have no doubt that had the boys in Vernen been Kelth: Fred, Ian, Joe and Pete, had they been the same colour as I, then my level of outrage would have been infinitely greater.

> Not just mine, of course, but that of the rest of the media, the political establishment and the great sweep of public opinion. Remember the outrage and media obsession that attended the tribulations of Louise Woodward and compare it to the whimpering indifference that has, up to now, typified the response to the Yemen Five.

Then the plight of a single white-fe-male caused shock waves from Wasitington to Downing Street. Television cameras were installed in her local pub and acres of newsprint were devoted to cheerleading for her defence.

Why is it that we were willing to allow the assumption of innocence to Louise Woodward, and not the Yemen Five. And why has it taken until this week, with the visits by the men's fam-



FERGAL KEANE Have I been too

complacent about race? Unfortunately, I think that the answer is yes

ilies to Yemen, for the British media to pay any detailed attention to the allegations of torture in that country? For many people in Britain the words "Islamic" and "fundamentalist" mean one and the same thing. They

have been hobbled together in the

popular consciousness to create a

grossly distorted view of the religion and its adherents. "Islam" means Ayatollah Khomeini, the Taliban, Osama bin Laden. It means wild-eyed, bearded fanatics vowing vengeance on the West. Can you imagine this kind of poisonous oversimplification and demonisation being visited on Christians as a group

of our more fundamentalist clerics? In the case of the Yemen Five the antipathy towards Islam has been extended to a generalised assumption that the men were "up to no good". But this assumption has been made solely on the word of the Yemeni authorities.

because of the actions or utterances

whose record for fair dealing hardly stands up to much scrutiny. When the men's families deny that their sons and brothers were fundamentalists bent on carnage, should we not extend to we do to the Yemenis? Whatever they were doing in Yemen, we have no right to assume that they were terrorists.

I don't doubt that the Yemeni authorities felt they were on safe ground in arresting the five. They would have expected the indifference and prejudgement that have characterised our national response. They also clearly feel confidence in the ability of their secret policemen to secure the necessary confessions and convictions. By any reasonable standards Yemeni jails are places of spectacular brutality. Human rights groups speak of widespread torture and

"grossly unfair" trials. Consider this excerpt from a report. by Amnesty International, published two years ago, on the conditions in Yemeni jails: "Such conditions have facilitated the systematic use of torture in Yemeni prisons and detention centres... government opponents and critics of the state have also fallen victim to abduction and beatings. Political suspects have been abducted from their homes or in the street and severely beaten to stop them criticising the government. Evidence suggests that these abuses were

committed by the security forces..." In other words, we are dealing with a judicial system that will use any means to secure a confession. When the detainees complain of electric shock torture, beatings on the soles of their feet and sexual violation, we must The writer is a BBC special

If the Yemen Five have signed confessions, then we would do well to ignore them. They are the kind of documents that would be thrown out of court in any half-decent judicial them the same benefit of credence as system. In Yemen, however, they may be used to secure the long-term incarceration - or worse - of five British citizens.

There is also the matter of the Yemeni government's uncertain motives in this matter. Can we assume that, hugely embarrassed by the bungled hostage rescue, they will be remotely even-handed in dealing with their British(with a small b, as it were) captives? It is time our Government and

media, all of us, woke up to what is happening in Yemen. In the last week there have been some hopeful signs. Newspapers and television have been giving increasing amounts of space to the men's families. But our politicians are too silent.

I have seen Labour's Keith Vaz on television, but none of the party's bigger guns. And as for the Tories who are now proclaiming a vision of a broader Britain? I await Mr Hague's intervention with interest.

This trial may prove to be a defining moment in the debate about Britishness. It is not simply a matter of crime and punishment. We have a chance to make a statement about inclusiveness, about the nature of British identity at the end of the century. This is an admirably open society in many ways. But the issues of race and identity need far more work than most of us have been willing to admit.

correspondent

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send them a free copy of the book Shadows of Brightness, a collection of photographs of Kenya.

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NORTHERN IRELAND

Opinions about the possibility of overcoming difficulties in order to fully implement the Good Friday agreement

THE IRISH TIMES

IT HAS never been more important for the British and Irish governments to make clear they share a common determination to press ahead with implementing the agreement. At times it seems Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is the only senior minister in either government who is prepared to defend the spirit and the letter of the agreement with real conviction. More power to her, but this is a project which demands the full attention of both governments. Northern Ireland must not be allowed to become one of the casualties of the present crisis facing the Government.

NEW STATESMAN

SINCE THE agreement was signed. it has been spattered in blood - of the 29 men and women blown up by a republican bomb in Omagh; of the Catholic and Protestant men shot, tortured and beaten to show that the paramilitaries of both traditions still command their patches. If this is peace, say the opponents of the Belfast Agreement, then perhaps it would be better to go back to war.

BELFAST TELEGRAPH

PAISLEY TOOK advantage of the issue about whether early prison releases should be stopped in reaction to so-called punishment attacks, but the only effect of his intervention will be negative. Old animosities have been revived. with untold consequences, and the whole atmosphere of the peace process has been poisoned. Paisley may think he has done a good day's work, exposing the inaction of successive governments, but he has achieved nothing that will contribute to the better. more pluralist future that most people voted

IRISH WORLD

their position in the new Ireland. While this is a time of teething difficulties and a voyage through uncharted waters for us all, the reality is that, to create a new society in Ireland, the ways of the past have to be confined fully to the past. And while it is equally hard to teach old dogs new tricks or persuade leopards to do away with their spots, it is imperative that it is exactly that which happens.

The new era and the new optimism that it brings are demanding real change and real commitment to new ways. Those demands must

AN PHOBLACT [REPUBLICAN NEWS]

AS THE implementation of the Good Friday agreement repeatedly hits the hurdles laid by Unionists, the voice of inclusiveness has to continue echoing. It has helped overcome the obstructionism and exclusion of the past. In the run-up to the final report on the All-Ireland bodies, abandoning the nationalist voice of consensus does not encourage Unionists to recognise the legitimacy of nationalists to be represented in the Executive. It does not help the agreement to be implemented. It does not help the

IRISH VOICE

IT HAS been a miracle that the peace process has come as far as it has, given the forces aligned against it from the beginning. It would be better for all concerned if the letter of the agreement which names May 2000 as the time when decommissioning is dealt with were stuck to. The IRA should give comfort by indicating that they are not sticking to their assertion of never decommissioning and that, if the agreement is enacted in full, then they are prepared to work on it. Time is running out on this perplexing problem which has haunted this process from the start. One thing is certain, though: unless it is THE POLITICAL parties and the resolved it is hard to see a way for-

Shot down in flames

NEW YORK POST

BESMIRCHED BY eye-popping reports of corruption, the International Olympic Committee is in crisis. It does not concern just a few bad apples. This bunch has rotted from the top down - and at the very top is IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch. In the face of the recent corruption, Samaranch has suggested changes in the Olympic selection process. One reform proposal would allow decisions to be made only by the executive board, instead of the entire IOC membership. Not surprising: That means only Samaranch and a handful of his cronies would benefit from the schmooze-fest that is the Olympic bidding process. Though the world has watched while the IOC goes down in flames, Samaranch has refused to acknowledge wrongdoing and has made no offer to resign. It's high time he gave up his control and allow this organization of international goodwill a measure of respectability once again.

MING PAO China

THE SPIRIT of the Olympic Games has been tarnished as corruption scandals over Sydney 2000 and the Winter Games in Salt Lake City come to light. These days. sports is always linked with money. The IOC has suffered from the bribery scandal. Structural defects of the committee can be blamed for the swirling corruption: the selection procedure of the country holding the Games is insufficiently transparent, voting rights are in the hands of a small circle of secretive insiders, and committee members are selected for life by the committee itself. All three elements have caused the rot, and the stench of deceit.

THE NEW PAPER Singapore

THIS WHOLE Olympics bribery scandal isn't shocking. No, we all know full well just how crooked the world is and how money talks in every field of activity. The International Olympic Committee members who took bribes to vote for a certain country to be host have done no worse than all do) but helio. welcome to the real world! many politicians and business leaders. Just work for it'



IOC CORRUPTION SCANDAL

International opinion on the bribery allegations engulfing the International Olympic Committee over its choice of venues

THE AGE Australia

crooked International Olympic Committee ONE OF the biggest problems in tackling corruption is defining it. When does nepotmembers. Sack them all. Those easilyinfluenced guys are two things: crooked and untrustworthy, and a bunch of lazy ism and cronvism become bribery and corruption? There has been demonstrated slobs. It's natural to want more money (we corruption involved in the granting of the

what of the blatant favors asked by, and in some cases given to, IOC delegates? When the giving of favors and gifts turns into corruption can be a matter of degree, but it is principally a matter of transparency. The test is whether those giving or receiving the gifts would want it known. The possibility that it might become public is a great deterrent to bribery, which is why the media is so essential.

THE WASHINGTON POST

FOR EVERY serious attempt to root out corruption, there's always someone ready to call a bribe a "humanitarian" gesture, a reflection of "culture" or simply a "willingness to please". We've heard all those excuses, and more, in connection with Salt Lake City. They should be on trial now.

LE MONDE

THIS AFFAIR will enable us to return to the controllable organisations of the Olympics. We must avoid economics taking the upper hand and dictating its law to the organisational committees. The IOC must also agree to becoming somewhat more condensed; 115 members is too much. 25 or 30 would be far easier to regulate. The IOC is representative of society but not representative of sport.

AFTONBLADET Sweden

THE IOC has long looked like a fraternal order: closed, self-renewing, often completely male. The ideological superstructure is feudalism. Despite this, the Games have had an exceptional common-man popularity. Politicians have long used the Olympics in their own propaganda campaigns. Hitler and Ulbricht placed themselves in the light glancing off gold medals. The US and the old Soviet Union used the Olympics with political boycotts. Athletics' character in recent decades has changed drastically; the ideal of amateurism has drowned in the flood of prize money. The combination of fraternalism and economic power has made 2002 Olympic Games to Salt Lake City. But the IOC especially receptive to corruption.

JORDANIAN SUCCESSION

Reaction to the King of Jordan's choice of his son Prince Abdullah to be his successor

IT IS not just in Jordan's but also in Israel's interest that the next king succeed. As Hussein's interventions at key moments in the peace process indicate, Jordan plays a unique role in the region. At this critical time, Jordan and the region need steady, trusted hands at the wheel. The best hands would be those of Hussein himself, whom Israelis and Jordanians hope will regain full health. As the King introduces changes in Jordan's ruling hierarchy, it is to be hoped that he will manage to pass on his strength and vision to his chosen successor as Hashemite monarch.

BOSTON GLOBE

WHEN KING Hussein returned to Amman, he openly rued his brother's failure to give firm responses to the despotisms in Damascus and Baghdad. Some

JERUSALEM POST skeptics may discount this palace account of the King's motivation as merely a cover for a paternal ambition as traditional as monarchy itself. But King Hussein has been able to stay in power for 46 years because he has not allowed himself to be careless about crucial matters. Jordan needs

LA VANGUARDIA Spain

guarantee for continuity.

THE DESIGNATION by Hussein

of his first-born Abdullah as heir to the throne has placed Jordan on the threshold of a new era; in this way the monarch has put an end to an interim situation that posed grave problems for the future of a country that is key to the Middle East. Jordan, with 13 communities, among them the Palestinians, who are in majority, and three religions, continues to be a powder keg, but the succession in the Jordanian monarchy is the

another king as canny as he.

nium and new century officially arrive, Pope John Paul II may have been the last pope to serve his full reign in the 20th century and Clinton will be the first president to serve in the 21st century. In contemporary history, the Pope will represent what once was and Clinton will represent what will be. The Pope will be remembered for his tireless battle to stem the changing beliefs of his flock. The President will be remembered for impeachment and his tireless effort to adjust his

Italy

CLINTON HAS been weakened in his spirit by allowing too

JOHN PAUL II MEETS BILL CLINTON

Views on the meeting of the Pope and the President of the United States in an aircraft hanger in St Louis, Missouri

ST LOUIS POST DISPATCH

THERE THEY were, the saint and the sinner, meeting in the hangar. When the new millenown beliefs.

LA STAMPA

much to his body. Pope John



Paul II has become frail, despite the strength of his spirit. The meeting was an opportunity to show once again their incompatibility. The pontiff and the American President try to control the world following two opposite principles, John Paul II calls for the end of violence as a way to solve the conflicts and looks forward to the birth of an alternative power to the United States. Clinton continues bombing each continent to reaffirm American supremacy. What makes them look alike is their ability to raise enthusiasm, more than a real consensus.

NEW YORK POST

right? But we prosecute crooked polit-

icians, so we should also not forgive these

The Pope has found a receptive audience among youngsters toward whom he has directed his message with fervor. Liberals try to explain the Pope's popularity with the claim that the public loves the messenger but doesn't care for his message. They said the same thing about Reagan; it wasn't true then and it's not true now. The Pope's message is one for all faiths and all ages.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

US John Paul's criticisms of materialism were part of a trip underwritten by Pepsi-Cola and several other companies He has won his battle with Communism, but his struggle to mount a spiritual critique of capitalism and commercial culture promises to be an even more complex task.

BLIND DATE WEDDING

Comment on the marriage in Birmingham of two people who had never previously met

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

THE PRINCIPAL factor in whether a marriage succeeds is the level of commitment brought to it. While it is heartening that Mr Cordell plans to "put 100 per cent behind it", the fact that he and his wife entered a competition offering a honeymoon, car and flat for a year is bound to raise suspicions. The media's artificial world is the opposite of the reality of marriage. That consists of compromises, compacts and consideration, but its compensations can be huge. If (as against the odds – we hope) this stunt develops into a happy

union, that would be, too.

THE BIRMINGHAM POST THE PUBLICITY stunt which brought about their wedding has debased the idea of marriage and turned it into nothing but a cheap and prurient way

of exploiting people's lives for a brief bout of entertainment. It tells us more than we want to know about the debasement of modern manners that more than 200 young men and women were prepared to subject themselves to this "experiment in love". The wedding may not be a sham - only the couple involved will know about that and they may not be sure yet - but it is certainly shaming.

THE SUN

THIS PUBLICITY stunt makes a mockery of marriage. Saying "I do" for the benefit of a radio station so you can get a free Bahamas holiday requires a bride and groom who are shallow, immature and stupid. Gree Cordell and Carla Germai certainly fit the bill on all counts. Marriage remain s the best method devised for 1 seeping family and home to sether. This cheap scam tur es a serious business into ?, joke. Except it's not at all f onny.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the wo rld

SUN NEWS

Elizabeth Dole vs Hillary Rod-

ham Clinton in 2000? Is that possible? Might that be the way this nation politically turns the millennium? Might we finally acknowledge that men have done a simply terrible job, especially lately, of running this country and turn to two bright women to appeal to t' A.e electorate to choose betw e.en them? Well, we know Dole as at least somewhat interestr 11; she has resigned her Red, Cross presidency to run, if sh e. decides to do so. And we knov , that Clinton has already sat fut the right hand of preside ritial power, despite all the u r,s and downs of that public co c ple and of their private marri sige. But is she

presidenti Ai material? Move over, Vice - President Al Gore. Move o ver, Gov George W Bush. J _et the women show all of us 'a.ow it should be done.

CUBA FREE PRESS

National Revolutionary Police (PNR) have arrested former political prisoner Manuel Diaz Cabrera and charged him with selling a hog to Jorge Capote of Ariza in Cienfuegos province. Various other politically incorrect citizens in this area believe the authorities are trying to fabricate a case against Díaz Cabrera so as to sabotage his dissidence with prison. He denies the charge. Diaz was released from prison last year at the request of Pope John Paul.

P.JESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"I've n' J'thing decent to we'ar" Che' (above), singer anv J. actress

'You have to 'resharpen your quill after a page of writing. Shakespeare must ve gone through so many geese." Joseph Fiennes,

"Economics is a game anyone can play. The difficulty in economics is to separate the good from the bad and the

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England

"If they go into this thinking that it's a marriage made in heaven, they haven't got a cat in hell's chance." Russell Grant astrologer, on the "blind date" marriage

"I occasionally have women in the kitchen but you can never get into the staff loo." Gordon Ramsay, chef

"It's not huge, but it is nice, in a good street with smashing neighbours, and I will miss it." Peter Mandelson, MP, on his house, valued at £750,000



DER STANDARD



LIANHE ZAOBAO

Singapore

Blind date wedding

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OUOTES

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U. Moxing

You've got my number. Please stop using it

AT EXACTLY 27 minutes past three they call, they register blank on the every afternoon my telephone rings. I pick it up. Silence. "Hello, hello." I say. Still silence. No embarrassed shuffling, no scrabbling to replace the receiver. no heavy breathing, even. I put the phone down, count 10, pick it up and listen. My mute caller is still there listening, waiting.

Telephone silence is spooky. I don't like being spooked. I dial 1471 but naturally the caller has withheld his number. In the next 15 minutes I get six more of these silent calls, and then my friend Nick telephones to ask whether seven across could be "existentialist" - it's certainly 14 letters beginning blank x ending i blank t - and l know I'm back on stream.

I've been getting these calls for the last two weeks. If I'm out when answering machine.

I rang the operator, who put me through to a special number for nuisance calls. Did I want to change my telephone number, asked the nuisance-call operator. Change my telephone number? Was he mad? I've had this telephone number longer than I've had my bonsai, my library card, my Bradford & Bingley account, my husband.

"Certainly not." I said. "Why can't you find out who's calling me and arrest them?" There must be some law, surely, against this sort of oral stalking. The nuisance call operator said they couldn't find out who was ringing, but the chances were that it was a power-dialler.

I've heard of power dressing and

power lunching, but power-

SUE ARNOLD

Confused visions passed before my eyes of big men in dirty raincoats, smiling menacingly

dialling? Confused visions passed before my eyes, of big men in dirty raincoats with padded shoulders, smiling menacingly as they jabbed the buttons of their S series Mercedes car phones. What's a power-dialler? "It's a

computer," said the nuisance-call operator. My name and telephone number, probably my address as well, were in a telesales computer whose operator was probably on her tea break. They're usually women. In her absence the computer automatically dialled the calls but wasn't programmed to give the time-honoured spiel about the untold millions I'd save if I were to install a fitted kitchen, doubleglazing or a loft extension within the next two weeks, "But why can't they switch their computers off when they're having their tea break?" I

Here's the sinister bit. The last time I ordered anything by mail

they get my number?"

protested. "And anyway, how did

the box saying "I do not wish my personal details to be passed on to any other sales organisation". advised the operator. "Wnat tick? What box? What mail order?" I

squealed, starting to feel paranoid. I don't order things by post. I live four floors above a retail mecca called the King's Road, for heaven's sake. I don't need to order things by post.

alogues, financial advice, that sort of thing?" asked the operator. "Yes, of course I do. dozens of them. and I chuck them away unopened." "Air." said the operator, "That's

"Do you ever get junk mail cat-

the problem. If you don't read the brochures you won't get to the refusal box. I can request that your number be removed from the major telesales lists, and with any calls should stop."

Next morning I got my usual quota of junk mail. I tore open the first envelope, containing a flimsy home health mail-order catalogue with a picture of a smiling brunette on an exercise bicycle on the cover, crammed full of the sort of merchandise no high-street shop could possibly display. Such as the nose and ear hair-trimmer for £5.95, or the reusable incontinence shields, machine washable. Personally, when I get to the sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans bladder control stage I'd sooner have the portable urinal featured on page 18, £6.95 or two for £12. That solves next

vear's Christmas presents. Hang on though; on page 22 there's a picture of an ingenious device called a portable bidet, curiously surgical-looking in design. It's even got a soap-holder. It sits over most lavatories and has a hook for easy storage. But if it's portable and you pack it in your case to stay with friends, do you really want to hang it up in their bathroom next to their pink flannels and fleecy guest towels? Far better play safe and hang it in the back of your car beside the fluffy dice.

There was a whole section on dental hygiene, with ultrasonic denture cream and a stainless steel tongue-scraper to cure halitosis. You could scrape your tongue as you're sitting on your portable bidet in your friend's weekend cottage. Please God she has a lock on the bathroom door.

I never got as far as the refusal box – what's a little power-dialling between friends anyway?

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

JACK STRAW, HOME SECRETARY

The man who could be king

LET US paint a picture in the heroic style, of the court of King Tony. The fair-faced young PM himself sits radiant and assured in the centre. To his right, his Chancellor, the dour but handsome Brown, rests one hand on the throne, and in the other holds a scroll. Captain of the Guard, rough-hewn Jack Prescott, pike at ready and belligerent expression on his face, stands on the other side. And a group of gaudy, happy -rung courtiers - men and women - spill

So the eye is not immediately drawn to the dark, iean, bespectacled figure in the corner. He, alone, is sitting at a desk writing, his clerk hovering nearby. This man wears neither ruff nor gorgeous hose, and strikes no attitude. Yet he clearly wields serious authority over the affairs of the realm. When, later, the dancing begins and Leicester and Essex dance the Notting Hill Reel, he will make his farewells and return to his family with tales of the court - just as another might relate a visit to an eccentric uncle, or to the zoological gardens. At 10 of the clock, one imagines, Mr Secretary Straw retires to bed.

But it is this latter-day Walsin his showy colleagues, whom the world now tips as the man who might take over should Tony suddenly decide to spend all his time in the Seychelles. Brown has too many enemies, Cook needs a year in rehab, Prescott does not aspire; but Jack Straw the coming man. So we should do well is get to know him better.

Certainly Labour's enemies are concerned by him. In a column in yesterday's Daily Telegraph, the writer complaining about Straw's championing of equalising the gay and heterosexual ages of consent - compared him to Beria, Trotsky, the Gestapo and Robespierre. (I won't bore you with the tortured logic that leads from Beria to the defence of equal rights for gay people. It is clearly a side of the NKVD that most historians have somehow missed.) To many on the left, meanwhile. Straw's tentative suggestion that some teenage mothers might look more positively at the option of having their babies adopted, smacks of Keith Joseph eugenics. Both sides portray him as a puritanical authoritarian

What most commentators do agree about, however, is that Straw has reversed one of the great political paradigms: that it is much easier to talk the talk in go position, than it is to walk the walk in Pernment. The post of Home Secretary is usually thought to be an unpromising launch-pad for further ambitions, fraught as it is with all kinds of contingent dangers. Yet chief constables adore him (I know, I've spoken to them), reformers generally believe he is on their side, and Middle England and the council estates unite to approve his policies.

Yet, less than three years ago he was nearly a write-off. In the debate that followed the resignation of the prisons' chief Derek Lewis, Straw seemed maladroit and

badly prepared for his confrontation with the troubled Tory Home Secretary, Michael Howard. After the election, knowing journalists speculated, he'd be moved aside. (Straw later revealed that a bad attack of tinnitus had made it very hard for him to hear Tory interventions, and to respond.) In the event, Tony Blair took no notice of the gossip.

An anonymous neighbour on the Essex council estate where Straw was brought up in the Fifties, once described the intense young boy as "priggish". This is often the

LIFE STORY

Born: John Whitaker Straw. 3 August 1946, Buckhurst Hill, Essex. Educated: Staples Road Primary: Brentwood School: University of Leeds (LLB). Was called to the Bar

Political career: President of the National Union of Students 1969-71; Islington councillor, 1971-78; Special adviser to Barbara Castle and Peter Shore (1974-77); MP for Blackburn since 1979; Shadow Cabinet member 1987-97. Other jobs: Called to the Bar, 1972, practised 1972-74; Granada

Action) staffer, 1977-79: chairman of governors of Pimlico school 1995-98. Family: Married his first wife. Anthea, in 1968, marriage dissolved

TV (World In

1978, one daughter (deceased). Married Alice Perkins in 1978, one son and one daughter. What he says about his job: "I don't want to preach. But in government you do have a platform and you must use it." What they say about him:

"Cunning" (Barbara Castle): "One of the government's all-round heavy hitters" (Alastair Campbell). Hobbies: Walking, cycling, souffles. Admires: Responsible parents and the Routemaster bus.

mature. But, from the beginning, Straw's politics and personality were disciplined Labour family but influenced by family munist Party of Great Britain, and his mind

ran to organisation and getting results. The so-called paradox of Straw, the

Sixties student leader, and Straw, the

tribute that is paid by the old and dim to the precocious and the unexpectedly and practical, rather than flowery and demonstrative. He was brought up in a friends who were members of the Comtough-on-crime politician, is in reality no paradox at all. In the Years of Revolti'68, '69 and '70) there were two trajectories for a young left-winger to follow. The first was to join the Revolutionary Socialist Students Federation and try to bring governments down by street protests. The other was to join the long march through the institutions, beginning with the official student body, the NUS. Straw, then a law student at Leeds University, chose the latter When he became president of the NUS, it was as a channeller of student protest, not a creator of it. Trotskyists hated him for his effectiveness, for the way in which he turned yells into briefing documents.

The task suited the man, Straw is not a romantic revolutionary, or a gesture politician. He hasn't the gift of oratory as has, say, Neil Kinnock or Tony Benn. His movement on the platform, or in the House, is economical. He is suspicious of ego and his vanities are minor; he is not half-monster, as some big politicians are. Michael Heseltine is his polar opposite.

Unlike Tony Blair, Straw is a party man. Having left the NUS he worked the Labour version of Route One to goallocal councillor, political adviser, parliamentary candidate. His mentor was the extravagantly coiffed Barbara Castle, whom Jack advised in the Seventies. When she retired from the Commons, Straw succeeded her in Blackburn, almost by divine right of succession.

A party man, then, but definitely not Old Labour, Straw held a sequence of shadow portfolios under Neil Kinnock, whose reforms he completely supported, and can claim to have been the instigator of the dropping of the old Clause 4 of the Labour Party constitution, the resolution to do so having originated in his own Blackburn constituency. In this Straw was considerably in advance of many colleagues.

He is, however, only a demi-Blairite. Straw does not like Liberal Democrats much, is an opponent of electoral reform, and was not delighted by Scottish devolution on terms that left England still subsidising Edinburgh. If he is gung-ho for Europe (which he once opposed as vehemently as any in the Labour Party), he has kept very quiet about it. Yet it is an interesting comment on Straw's commitment to the collective, that Liberal Democrats working with him on the Cabinet Committee have found him pretty diligent.

The Home Secretary has sometimes found himself in the company of even more unlikely allies than the Lib Dems. Jack Straw and Paul Dacre, editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers and scourge of adulterers, met each other when Dacre was editor of the Leeds University student newspaper, Leeds Student, and Straw was student-union president. Some have inferred from this, and from Straw's stance on crime, that the Home Secretary is a moraliser in the old-fashioned sense. This is wrong. Straw's own father (Walter, an insurance clerk and conscientious



In an age of spin, the Home Secretary is straight, blunt and very clear

objector) left home and Jack's mother, had previously proved to be impossible. Joan, a teacher, when Jack was 10. Straw himself was divorced after a marriage contracted when he was just 21. He is not, in that sense, at all judgemental, Straw is

a man of his generation. Certainly a family man, given to camping holidays with the kids, which may be revealed that she had paid the child why he was close enough to his son William to persuade the boy down to the local nick when the "Home Secretary's son tried to sell me drugs" story broke. The skill and straightforwardness with which Straw dealt with William's little error earned respect across the journalistic spectrum.

But he does loathe crime with an "I was poor, but I never mugged an old lady" kind of zeal. He is impatient of the dilettantism of the professional middle classes, and identifies with the council tenant driven to distraction by lousy neighbours. The term "public space" connotes something as valuable to Jack Straw as "private space" does to the most ardent Tory. He regards its violation by drunks, pimps, vandals and drug-takers as being akin to burglary or assault. It was this toughness that helped to neutralise the law-and-order issue for Labour at the last election - a feat that

This populist toughness is linked to the dark side of Straw. He values individual liberty too lightly, and sometimes situates himself where "ordinary people" are, regardless of whether or not they are right. Nine months ago, the author Gitta Sereny murderer Mary Bell a sum of money for co-operating in a book about what made Bell a killer. The murders had happened 30 years before, when Bell was 11. She had reconstructed her life and in no sense could she have been said to be "profiting" from her crime. But this was not how it felt to the relatives of those killed, to the tabloid press and to the Home Secretary. Straw's

a model of illiberalism. Straw has also defended the secret services, stating this week that he has no wish to see the files compiled about him when he was young. The arguments here are complex, but it would have been reassuring had the Home Secretary not hinted that, on reflection, maybe MI5 was right to have kept him and others under is the one most in posse surveillance. Nevertheless, such straight dealing does tend to undermine Baroness

open letter to The Sun (of all papers!) was

Thatcher's argument that Straw's actions over the extradition of General Pinochet smack of political calculation. No one whom I have met who knows Jack Straw agrees with this judgement,

The other, related question mark over Jack Straw concerns a possible lack of imagination. It is not just that he was a law student rather than, say, a student of art history. After all, so were Tony and Cherie. And Bill and Hillary. And we all know Bill's got a lot of imagination. But Jack Straw is not a weaver of political dreams. But neither is he a product of spin. Straw has always put his faith in simple briefers: guys who know what the policies are and who see it as their job to tell people. Conversations with Straw himself lack that frustrating, oblique quality that characterises discussions with those who are perpetually working the percentages. He is straight, blunt, occasionally dismissive,

And I have hardly heard a bad word said about him since the May 1997 election. Of all the members of Tony Blair's court, he qualities of kingship.

DAVID AARONOVITCH

feminine and really quite beautiful. It comes as something of a shock

The nursery teacher is a typical Grenfell character, full of misplaced enthusiasm, gradually losing patience with her recalcitrant charges – "George, don't do that" –

but in a very genteel, English way. It is a beautifully observed piece and, like so much of Grenfell, says more about a certain kind of middle-class Englishwoman than any amount of Betjeman's Joan Hunter Dunnery.

Joyce was a kind of poet of niceness. This probably came naturally to her since she was by all accounts every bit as kind, caring and, well, nice as most of her heromes, the difference being that in Joyce's case, acts of generosity were

Janie Hampton, who edited her letters, tells how Joyce paid school fees for nephews and nieces, and occasionally gave a car or a house or, bizarrely, in one case a dishwasher, to a friend in need. (Elvis gave Cadillacs, Joyce household

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

25: JOYCE GRENFELL, ACTOR

are fearfully rich," wrote Grenfell, "and of all the forms of self-indulgence, giving is the pleasantest." But it is Joyce's hugely influential

body of work - often disregarded or seriously undervalued - rather than her saintliness, that qualifies her for inclusion in this series; the more so since it stemmed from such unlikely If anybody's success could be said

appliances. How very English.) "We to be inadvertent it is Grenfell's. She started performing her sketches and songs in revues only in her late twenties, in 1939, after friends whom she had entertained at dinner parties urged her to "have a bash".

Joyce's gentle guying of women of her own background – débutante, Paris finishing school - was perhaps not that remarkable. But how she ever acquired her ear for the cadences of lower-middle-class and

mains something of a mystery.

The pieces in which Joyce stepped outside her own class have been criticised for being patronising. but this is absolutely unjustified. In a monologue called "The Telephone Call", a 30-year-old in Sydney who has given up her job as a shopgirl to look after her aged father tries to explain to her boyfriend why she cannot go to the pictures with him that evening: "I asked Letty to come over and sit with him, but she's got the kids and Frank and it's a heli of a way over here, and they do take him out driving in the car on Sundays... I put him first because I have to... But you know what I feel about you." The impatient boyfriend dumps her. It's poignant, it feels true and, what is she says, "where he adds up."

working-class conversations re- more, it has a strong feminist streak. It would be fanciful to place Joyce

Grenfell, who died in 1979, in the vanguard of the women's movement, although many of her pieces pointed out inequalities between the sexes, but she was certainly a standardbearer for the kind of characterbased comedy performed by people such as Victoria Wood and Barry Humphries. She was also, happily, not completely without malice.

A wickedly funny piece in which a writer of children's books talks in twee terms about how she writes her almost identical books by going into her Hidey-Hole and visiting the Land of Make-Believe is obviously based on Enid Blyton. "Now my husband has his own Hidey-Hole,"



THE PICTURE of Joyce Grenfell on the jacket of a recently published volume of her letters shows her writing in her study, looking relaxed, soft,

So utterly convincing was Joyce's galumphing gaucherie in the St Trinian's movies, and the wellmeaning but hopeless nursery teacher of her most famous monologue, that it is sometimes difficult to conceive of another existence in which she is not wielding a hockey Rick and facing the camera with an embarrassed, toothy smile.

achieved with quiet efficiency.

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By MARTIN NEWELL

THE WEEKLY MUSE



A blue moon due tomorrow night When January shuffles out And February lumbers in. Ill-tempered as a case of gout, His chamberpot of stale rain Brimful of lukewarm winter days. A half-day closing firebug sun To set the sulking clouds ablaze.

The disappearing apple. There's a subject for a poet. The dreaming English orchards Were the places where they'd grow it -The russet and the Blenheim Or the rough old d'Arcy Spice -But the supermarket buyers Think they wouldn't look as "nice" As those waxy plastic objects Which you see them putting out, And as all their adverts tell you: Choice - it's what it's all about.

More sex pervading everything...

The media's full of sex And prurient fascination With concave and convex. The latest thing to crop up On an over-stuffed agenda Is the Old Vic's new production On the theme of the pudenda. This vonic veneration, Though it isn't quite a play. Asks the thought-provoking question: "If it talked, what would it say?" Vaginal conversation? Not the sort of thing I'd try, But even if it happened

How the hell would I reply?

A perfume firm, American, Has launched a certain winner. I gave some to my girlfriend Last evening over dinner: The subtle scent of "Essex" Is sweetly charismatic, The high note's Harwich Harbour, The undertone's emphatic -A Billericay boot fair, A whiff of car-interior, A hint of Thorpe-le-Soken, And something far superior -An Elmstead Market feed-shed? A dog on Clacton sands? My hostess smelled of lager. I was putty in her hands.

THE WEASEL

Charles I was beheaded 350 years ago but in this dozy realm you'd hardly know it. Most people seem keener on making marmalade

NOW HERE'S a thing. No one knows who decapitated King Charles I, an event that took place 350 years ago today shortly after 2pm on 30 January 1649. The axeman was obviously a pro, since the monarch's head was parted from his body via a single blow to the third vertebra. However, since they were understandably wary of retribution, both the executioner and his assistant wore heavy disguise. As CV Wedgwood points out in her enthralling account The Trial of Charles I, they were not only masked but also equipped "with hair and beards that were evidently not their own". For a king to have his head chopped off is bad enough, but it adds insult to injury when the dread deed is performed by someone wearing false whiskers.

It is a classic example of British understatement that this event, surely the most significant constitutional drama since the Norman conquest, is being marked by an exhibition consisting of two small display cases in the Banqueting House on Whitehall. Charles passed his final hours in Inigo Jones's architectural gem.

A historian has noted that the condemned monarch would have heard workmen cutting planks and driving nails" as they constructed a temporary scaffold adjoining the building. Ironically, before stepping through a window in order to reach the scaffold Charles would have passed under Rubens's ceiling allegory, which depicts Wise Government (a sultry beauty) holding a bridle over Intemperate Rebellion (a cringing wretch).

Though the exhibition is modest in

scale, it merits a detour. The Archbishop of Canterbury has lent a pair of embroidered gloves worn by the monarch on the day of his execution. There is also a nicely crocheted cap which kept the regal head warm - while still attached, I hasten to add. The Society of King Charles the Martyr (still active after three- and-a-half centuries) has donated a splinter of wood hacked from the royal coffin.

But the most creepily thrilling object is the King's death warrant, allowed out of the House of Lords for the first time. It turns out to be a small piece of parchment, 8in deep and slightly wider than the page you're currently holding. Though it is much faded, it is possible to read the flowing script: "Charles Steuart Kinge of England is ... to be putt to death by the severinge of his head from his body." Third in line among the 59 signatures that follow, in large, clear handwriting, is "O. Cromwell".

the list has been partially erased. According to CV Wedgwood, the signature of one Gregory Clement was half-heartedly scratched out when he was caught in bed with his maidservant. Since his name was still legible, Clement did not escape the chop when the Regicides were hunted down following the Restoration in 1660. Cromwell himself had been dead for two years, so the Royalists had to satisfy themselves with digging up his body and displaying the Protector's head on a pole for a quarter of a

Oddly enough, the last name in

Of course, the dramatic event that took place on a freezing afternoon 350 years ago scarcely stirs much interest today. Or does it? This morning, the Society of King Charles the Martyr is holding its annual service of commemoration in the Banqueting House. At the same time, outside in Whitehall, a group called Movement Against the Monarchy plans to hold a "Party to



Celebrate the Beheading of Charles I". Let's hope no one loses their head.

IT'S THAT time again. Like one of the weird sisters from the Scottish play, Mrs Weasel has been hovering over a seething cauldron, while croaking strange incantations:

With orange from Secille, a pan you

To help it congeal, some pectin you steal. Then bubble awhile with Tate &

Lyle. This year, sad to relate, her spell went somewhat awry. Half-way through the first batch of marmalade, she rechecked her recipe and let fly an anguished shriek: "Drat it! I put the sugar in too early!" (I give a bowd-

lerised version.) Pressing on regardless, she bottled the result, which stubbornly refused to gel. Disconsolately, she shook a jar and the chunks of peel whirled round inside like goldfish.

I was promptly dispatched into the drizzle of south London for more preserving sugar. In every supermarket, it was the same story; an empty shelf in the sugar section, where marmalade maniacs had beaten me to it. Eventually, I tracked down a cache of seven packets in Sainsbury's hidden behind the demerara and Mrs W resumed production. This time, she burnt it. Not enough to spoil, but quite sufficient to raise her temper to the "rolling boil" specified in the recipe - though this usually applies to the marmalade rather than

the cook Mercifully, on her third and fourth attempts, my increasingly sticky consort was more successful and the kitchen table filled with a bittersweet battalion of jars. As she pinged a rubber band to secure the cover of the 47th and final jar, their creator suddenly erupted: "If it's all that good, why don't

the Spanish make it themselves?"

(The strange fact is that Mrs W doesn't eat marmalade.) "Well the Portuguese still make the quince jam called. marmelada, from whence our word derives," I replied in my annoying male way, "but they don't seem to like Olde English in Seville." I thought of cracking the old one about oranges lacking appeal, but one glance at Mrs W's phy-zog told me that it was not a good idea.

A CHERISHED illusion bites the dust on page 34 of Mon on the Flying Trapeze: The Life and Times of WC Fields, by Simon Louvish (Faber & Faber. \$14.99). Though everyone believes that the inscription on the comedian's tombstone is "It's better than playing Philadelphia" or possibly "On the whole, I'd sooner be playing Philadelphia", this lapidary mot turns out to be apocryphal. According to Louvish, the plaque on the comedian's reliquary (he requested cremation) merely reads "WC Fields 1880-1946".

But one aspect of the Fields legend is unassailable. The index of this sprawling but entertaining volume lists 21 references under "penchant for alcohol" and a further three under "hatred of water". A major pleasure of the book is Louvish's generous quotation from the great curmudgeon's dialogue. No one in cinema had a more distinctive way with a line.

You can even hear his voice in a fourword quote from the film (said to be his;) best) which gives the book its title. It (7 occurs when he accidentally fires a gunnear his wife: "Fields (a little eagerly): 'Did I kill yer?'"

SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLELY

An organised faith in humanity,

I HAVE wanted for a long time to meet who traces his anti-religious dispen-Nicolas Walter. He is the chap who writes combative, dare I say tetchy, letters whenever I suggest that there may be a link between the decline of religion and the growing sense of insecurity and anxiety in the modern world. Morality, he insists, can exist independent of the Judaeo-Christian tradition in which our secular values grew. It would be nice to think so.

Mr Walter is part of the cadre of milthe mere drift of society towards greater secularisation. They want to push it along and tidy it up, so that all the anomalies of our religious heritage are placed in the intellectual museum

where they belong. There was a huge stack of books on the ground floor of the offices of the Rationalist Press. Nicolas Walter, after 20 years at the organisation's helm, is about to retire and is moving out of the flat at the top of its Islington office. It has not been an easy place for him in recent times. Chemotherapy for a cancer has severely crippled him and he can make the arduous progress down and up the stairs only once a day. Next year he will move to the country. with as many of the books as he can fit into his new place there.

But his atheism is far from a sublimated railing against a malign divinity responsible for his unhappy infirmity. Mr Walter is, in the circumstances, a rather jovial, bearded chap, with a ready laugh and an agreeable manner.

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sation to a childhood which he describes as occurring in a family that. he said, was "left-wing, non-religious. optimistic but angry, and very sharply and explicitly critical of the world around them."

The irony about the avowedly nonreligious Ethical Rationalist Humanist Secularist Movement to which he belongs is that it resembles nothing so much as a religion itself. This is not its itant activists who are not happy with official title, but you have to include that many abstract adjectives if you are to cover the range of its belief without leaving anybody out. This is largely because it has been riven by as many splits and schisms as any religious denomination could respectably hope for. It began with a Victorian Ethical Society, and mutated into the National Secular Society and then the Rationalist Press Association before merging into the British Humanist Association, only for the rationalists to withdraw because they felt their position was being tainted by the quasi-religious

temperament of softy ethicists. There is something terribly oldfashioned about all this, much as there is about Nicolas Walter's litany of the founding fathers of secularism whose names - GJ Holyoake, Richard Carlile, RD Owen, Charles Bradlaugh - mean little in today's thoroughly secularised era, which they could only long for.

Prominent figures in the movement are aware of the paradox. Mr Walter gave me a copy of his association's

magazine. New Humanist, which carried a wealth of articles with titles such as "Jesus the Fanatic" and "Another Look at Miracles". The lead piece on "The Future of Unbelief" began with the quote: "One of the most obvious and regrettable things about contemporary humanism is that it has become quaint - a movement out of step with the times it has helped to create.

Partly, the writer said, this is because it insists on fighting again battles it has already won: the war against religion, the battle for intellectual freedom, the defence of moral choice, and so on. But he also said that organisations that call themselves secularist. rationalist or humanist nowadays seem old. tired and sadly ineffectual. Most significantly, humanism has been supplanted as the Church's most effective critic - by, of all things, liberal theology.

But it has another problem, too. The movement's beliefs extend well beyond mere utilitarian notions about achieving the greatest good for the greatest number of the population. It makes statements - about the goodness of humanity, freedom, mutuality, art, music, laughter and love - that, ultimately, are based on assertions and instincts rather than empirical fact. Its faith in humanity is, in the end, no less a matter of belief than is any religion.

Nicolas Walter disagrees. "Humanism is not a faith. I don't have faith in freedom, I just want to be free; there's a difference," he says. Similarly,



Atheism in the open air: a humanist wedding ceremony

nature share nothing, as many suppose, with the instinct of religion: "I feel stirred, and brought to tears, but it's not by the transcendent. Reverence for the universe, as Einstein said, makes no sense. I just try to explain it in biological terms. Why are we musical? What, in Darwinian terms, is it for? Why does it help?"

Darwinism is a double-edged sword here. Biogenetic structuralism now suggests that human beings are genetically programmed for music, language, dance... and religion. We insist on making patterns - of harmony,

rhythm and meaning. More than that, epidemiologists now suggest that people who believe in God are happier than average and

the feelings aroused by the majesty of live longer. Religion, it seems, has an evolutionary point.

"Yes, but civilisation goes through stages - and we've reached the stage where we can think for ourselves," says Mr Walter And there are battles vet to fight. "Christianity still has privileges enshrined in the law. There is the issue of Islam and state schools. And there is all the mumbo-jumbo of the New Age. There are still lots of things still worth arguing about - and if organised humanists don't, no one will."

Whether or not it is "organised humanism" - or the majority of the population's rootless drift along the "line of least resistance" - which has been the real force for secularisation, is matter for another debate. I await the letter with interest.

DAYS LIKE THESE

30 January 1829

SIR WALTER SCOTT, novelist, writes to Benjamin Croker:

Miss Seward knew Dr Johnson well... There was a story she told me respecting the Sage's marriage with the widow Porter. He had been quite candid with the lady, and had pointed out to her all his disadvantages. 'I told her,' he said, 'that I was as poor as a rat, and destitute of any settled profession; that I was blind and ugly, and moreover of a family which was dishonoured by the execution of a near relative.' She replied most candidly that all these drawbacks made no difference to her choice; that she was not much richer than myself, and she was resolved to trust to heaven's blessing and my talents for a sufficient income; that if I was unsightly, she was no longer young, and it was not for my good looks that she gave me preference. Finally that, although she had not had an uncle who had been hanged, yet she emoyed the



relationship of more than one near relative who richly deserved it."

1 FEBRUARY 1901

CISSY, COUNTESS OF DENBIGH, records the last journey of Queen Victoria (pictured) who died on 22 January

"We steamed out, and took up our position between the last British ship and the first foreign ships of war, on the south side of the double line down which the procession was to pass. The day was one of glorious sunshine, with the smoothest and bluest of seas. After a while a black

dashing down the line signalling that the Alberta was leaving Osborne and from every ship, both British and foreign, boomed out the minute guns for close on an hour before the procession reached us. The sun was now (3pm) beginning to sink, and a wonderful golden pink appeared in the sky and as the smoke slowly rose from the guns it settled in one long festoon behind them, over Haslar, a purple festoon like the purple hangings ordered by the King. Then slowly down the long

line of battleships came eight torpedo destroyers, dark gliding forms, and after them the white Alberta looking very small and frail next to the towering battleships. We could see the motionless figures standing round the white pall which, with the crown and orb and sceptre, lay upon the coffin. As slowly and as silently as it came the cortege passed away into the haze; with the solemn booming of the guns continuing every minute till Portsmouth was reached."

LAN IRVINE

The trial of the vanquished

I DESIRE today to speak particularly of equal justice, because it is an essential of individual liberty. Unless there is law, and unless there is an impartial tribunal to administer that law, no man can be really free. Without them only force can determine controversy, as in the international field today, and those who have not sufficient force cannot remain free. Without law and an appeal to a just and independent court to interpret that law, every man must be subject to the arbitrary discretion of his ruler or of some subordinate government official.

The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and every pronouncement of the founders of the government stated the same principle in one form or another. In England the progress towards a definite law, administered by efficient and impartial courts or tribunals, was slow and uncertain. The common law developed slowly and became clear and definite only after many centuries. For a long time the courts were anything but impartial, and the actual application of the law was often unfair and unjust. But reverence for the principle must have existed, or it would not have been transported so early to the shores of America to become the dominant theory of government in

I believe that most Americans view



CLASSIC **PODIUM**

From a speech by Senator Robert Taft, at Kenyon College, condemning the war crimes trials of Axis leaders, as being against the principles of Anglo-American law

(5 OCTOBER 1946)

with discomfort the war trials which have just been concluded in Germany and are proceeding in Japan. They violate that fundamental principle of American law that a man cannot be

tried under an ex post facto statute. The trial of the vanquished by the victors cannot be impartial, no matter how it is hedged about with the forms of justice. I question whether the hanging of those who, however despicable, were the leaders of the German people will ever discourage the making of aggressive war, for no one makes aggressive war unless he expects to win. About this whole judgment there is the spirit of vengeance, and vengeance is seldom justice. The hanging of the 11 men convicted will be a blot on the American record which we shall long regret.

In these trials we have accepted the Russian idea of the purpose of trials government policy and not justice with little relation to Anglo-Saxon heritage. By clothing policy in the forms of legal procedure, we may discredit the whole idea of justice in Europe for years to come.

In the last analysis, even at the end of a frightful war, we should view the future with more hope if even our enemies believed that we had treated them justly in our English-speaking concept of law, in the provision of relief and in the final disposal of territory. I pray that we do not repeat this procedure in Japan, where the justification on grounds of vengeance is much less than in Germany.

Our whole attitude in the world, for a year after VE Day, including the use of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, seems to me a departure from the principles of fair and equal treatment which have made America respected throughout the world before

this Second World War. Today we are cordially hated in many countries. I am delighted that Secretary of State James FI Byrnes and Senator Arthur H I Vandenburg have reversed our policy in many of the respects I have referred to. But, abroad as at home, we have a long way to go to restore again to the American people our full heritage of an ingrained belief in fairness, impartiality, and justice.

Peace in the world can come only if law is agreed to relating to international relations, if there is a tribunal which can interpret that law and decide disputes between nations, and if the nations are willing to submit their disputes to impartial decision regardless of the outcome.

There can be no peace until the public opinion of the world accepts, as a matter of course, the decisions of an international tribunal

War has always set back temporarily the ideals of the world. This because of the tremendous scope of the war, the increased barbarism of its methods and the general prevalence of the doctrine of force and expediency even before the war, the effect today is even worse and the duration of the post-war period of

disillusionment may be longer. As I see it, the English-speaking peoples have one great responsibility. That is to restore to the minds of men a devotion to equal justice under law.

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THE WEEKEND PRIVING

THE SATURDAY ESSAY

Can anyone control the flow of ideas in the modern age?



JOHN SUTHERLAND

There is no question that. over the next few decades, the Net will destabilise states and may even start wars

"So you." Abraham Lincoln said on meeting Harriet Beecher Stowe, "are the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war:" The book in question was Uncle Jom's Cabin. Stop the book, kill the idea at source, and you may change the course of history - the dream of every ruler less benevolent than honest Abe over the last 50 years.

It's not easy to do, and the stakes are high. The KGB, aware of the counterrevolutionary power of books (even homemade samizdats), registered every typewriter in their 10-time-zone territory. Xerox copiers, fax machines and computers were as jealously guarded by the party apparatus as plutonium. The result? The Soviet Union drove itself back into the information dark ages and lost the Cold War. Control ideas too harshly, and you strangle the creative forces that a modern state needs in order to progress. Let Am loose and all the genies are out of the bottles, causing 20 sorts of hell.

Ideas move history. The new containers that new ideas come in are taken seriously by the governments that wish to stay governments. It is always instructive to look at the communications media that the state is currently most exercised to control. The means of control are not always those classically associated with the 4am bang on the door and men in black. Over the centuries Britain and the United States - non-totalitarian states with liberal traditions of free speech - have shown themselves remarkably efficient in balancing repression and tolerance. It's a balt is imperilled every time a new medium appears on the scene.

When it appeared in the 15th century the printing press was subjected to immediate regulation. Initially in Britain it was applied by the Star Chamber, Stationers' Hall, and the Lord Chamberlain. In France a com-Plex system of "privileges" or licences was posed. Traditionally only two potentially dangerous books, the Bible and Hansard, have been subjected to long-term control by licence in Britain. The great university presses, Oxford and Cambridge, established their half-millennial cultural dominance with the Bible privilege. If you want to test the continuing strength of the Hansard monopoly, go into the visitors' gallery at Westminster with a pencil and note pad. You'll be shaken down quicker than a Yemeni going through airport X-ray security with an Uzi in his underpants.

The printing press was dangerous for the state in a number of ways. It allowed the dissemination, on an unprecedentedly massive scale, of dissident ideas. It invaded the state's monopoly of "intelligence". It was a potent instrument of mass education, and a literate population (particularly a selftaught population) is difficult to keep in line. It facilitated the circulation of subversive, blasphemous and pornographic materials all of which corroded the moral found-aions of society and its hierarchies.

Unlike dirigiste France, Britain quickly realised that the control of the printed word was best achieved by a network of quasilegal controls, working in a semiautonomous way. Copyright, the most elegant of laws, was devised with the Queen Anne copyright Act of 1710. The basic idea of copyright requires an intellectual leap - the notion of "immaterial property". The copyright in the words I am currently writing, though you buy them for less than £1 under the auspices of The Independent belong to me - even after 1. The Independent



The coffee-houses of 18th century London were clearing houses for radical ideas and political gossip

has paid me for them. 2. you have purchased them, in their material form, from the newsagent. Repeat a substantial part of this article in print, and I can sue you for infringement of my rights; Xerox them and - if I am incredibly small-minded - I can still act against you. What then do I own? The arrangement of those words. They can be sold a million times (in your dreams, Sutherland); I still own them.

Copyright was, for the authorities, a beautiful legal instrument. Convert creatrity into property and the booksellers (and behind them the authors) will set up the necessary mechanisms to control production and distribution. And British publishers, as Orwell disgustedly discovered (when he vainly tried to get them to accept Animal Form), are by nature "gutless". You want to know what "repressive tolerance" means? Look at the "bible" of the publishing trade, The Bookseller.

With the protections of copyright came another beautiful concept - that of "public domain". Once a work's immediate commercial value was exhausted, its ideas became everybody's and nobody's - like the medieval common, the open seas, and the skies above our heads. Shakespeare - the man of the millennium - belongs to us all. So, one day, will Salman Rushdie (by current EU statute, 70 years after his death; of old age and in bed, I trust). The balance between copyright-protected works and public domain, painfully worked out over the half-millennium since print shook everything up, has served liberal democracies very well.

The Internet has changed everything. Worse than this, it is changing things faster than laws and mechanisms can be devised to control it. The authorities are worried and have reason to be. There is no question that, over the next few decades, the Net will destabilise states and may even start wars.

The history is well known. It began, in the Sixties, as a military communications system. The Americans foresaw that a preemptive nuclear strike on Washington could render the US a headless giant. "ArpaNet" was devised as a network by which military and government computers could talk to each other, if only two machines were left. Since much military research is done on US campuses, academics started using the network. Thus was e-mail born. At this point, the communications were limited to linear text.

None of this mattered to the general public in the Seventies. Computers were expensive gadgetry that only the government big business and universities could afford and only pointy-headed boffins could operate. Personal computers were as fantastic a concept as personal space shuttles. All this changed in the early Eighties when Adam Osborne in America began selling his "luggable" computers in America with bundled software, at a price (then around \$2,000) that the businessman and clair began selling his little black computers at a price that the nerdy schoolboy could afford (around £150), if he didn't buy himself a BMX.

These early affordable generations of computer, with their 32K or 64K of Random Access Memory, were not Net-connectible. But RAM grew year by year, driven by the need for more powerful business and games applications. In 1991, Tim Berners-Lee. a scientist at Cern (the physics research centre in Geneva) devised a means by which images and lateral links could be added. Hypertext was born. The initial idea was that the Internet (as it was now called) would allow scientists to exchange "big science" ideas and the visuals that go with them.

Finally, in the late Nineties, there was convergence; the fat was in the fire. The computer available to the general public in High Street shops at around £1,000 was powerful enough to hook into the Internet. The World Wide Web was born. It was an explosive conjunction that out advanced states in the Western World in the anguished position of the KGB in 1988 or the Star Chamber in 1488 - how to control the apparently uncontrollable?

The Web is a threat in four main sectors. First, it drives a coach and horses through copyright legislation. Judging by past experience, what I am now writing will be scanned in and on the Net tomorrow, zooming around between various chatroom subscribers. The Web is no more obedient to the regulations of international or national copyright law than the Barbary Coast was to His Majesty's Customs and Excise officers. Everything is public domain on the Web. And that everything is growing. In the very near future, it will be possible to scan in and download film, TV programmes and whole CDs. Piracy at that point will be uncontrollable, and rampant to an unprecedented degree.

Almost every day you can read articles in the financial supplements wondering at the extraordinary "over-valuation" of Netrelated stocks on the Nasdaq list. How is it that AOL and Yahoo! can be valued so highly when they haven't turned in a cent's profit? Because at some point in the near future, there is going to be the biggest gold rush in history, when all that copyright-protected intellectual property (films, TV, books, music) becomes freely available (ie fully piratable as free down-load) on the Web. The Klondike and the Calgary Stampede will be as nothing in comparison. It will be champagne for the holders of the right stocks, Black Monday 1929 for the rest of the market. The destabilising implications for capitalism are awesome. It's unavoidable and it's coming

soon to a stock-market near you. The second danger posed by the Web is that having been originated in the US and in a community (science) where English is the lingua frança, it is an extraordinarily potent instrument of imperial hegemony. The Web is American (which is why there is no national domain marker equivalent to ".uk" for their e-mail addresses). Statistics are fluid, but something between 50 and 70 percent of communications are from and to American sites. What then does Tony Blair's "National Grid of Learning" mean? Something equivalent, in cultural terms, to Argentina adopting the dollar as its currency.

Thirdly, and most worrying for authorities, the Web makes nonsense of the mechanisms that are in place for controlling subversive ideas.

These assertions can be demonstrated by three little experiments. Sit down on your computer, log on to your Net service provider, and call up whatever search engine it offers. Experiment One: search for "David Shayler". You will get a website listing for MI5's current Enemy Number One. Stop at this point. Go forward, download some of David's dodgier stuff, and you could find yourself in contravention of the Official Secrets Act.

Experiment Two: choose your favourite pop group (Oasis, Nirvana, REM). Search. A couple of clicks will get you to a site providing a comprehensive library of lyrics and music. Stop at this point. Go forward, and you could find yourself handling stolen

Experiment three: Search on "fetish", or "bestiality". Select among any one of the

10,000 porn sites for what looks "hardest". Stop at this point. Go forward, and you could find yourself on the wrong side of any number of laws - most seriously, the Child Protection Act. A judge at Cambridge Crown Court, in passing sentence on a lecherous surfer on Wednesday, ruled that downloading images from the Net "amounted to making copies and breached the Act". The fact is, millions of Web users, less prudent than Independent readers, won't stop. How many laws can

most as many as you can with a gun. One of the films doing well at the moment is Enemy of the State, a paranoid thriller. Its narrative gimmick is that the

more than you can with a motorcar and al-

new world of electronics - notably the Web delivers the Orwellian nightmare of totalitarian control by total surveillance of the population. Individual liberties, dependent as they are on are individual privacy, are doomed.

It's nonsense. The Web does not principally threaten individuals; it threatens the state and its rulers - just think what samizdats did to the Soviet Union, and imagine the threat posed by the World Wide Web to the rulers of China. Even the President of the United States needs to worry. Bill Clinton's impeachment woes are substantially Web-driven. Matt Drudge broke the original stained-dress story on his site, when the news magazines wouldn't handle it. After that, every salacious detail was spilled on the Web before being picked up by the "legitimate" press.

As everyone outside the American Senate realises, Clinton's offences are venial peccadilloes. But what if there had been real presidential wrong-doing, something equivalent to Iran-Contra? It was Reagan's good fortune not to have to deal with leaks in cyberspace. His damage could be controlled, just. After Clinton, American presidents will be nervous as cats on hot bricks unless, that is, some means can be found to control not "the media", but "that medium".

Those means will be found, as they always have been in the past. A new balance between repression and tolerance will be established. But in the meantime, the ride is going to be interestingly bumpy.

The writer is Lord Northcliffe professor of modern English literature at the University of London

BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY

for Ipswich, the week turned Hansard into a gay Kama Sutra During the debate on the

age of consent he began with some rather jovial remarks about his own sex life. in which he confided that, at 52, "sex counts for 1 or 2 per cent of my life nowadays - on holiday. perhaps 5 per cent". However, he then went on to an obsessive and detailed description of homosexual erotic practices which provoked widespread embarrassment. His distaste for such practices was more than apparent. Now, there's one politician who'll never get

Nazi pigeon of the

Nazi-trained boming the target of British covert operations

during the last war, according to some recently released MI5 files. Heinrich Himmler, mass murderer and president of the German National Pigeon Society, had the bright idea of recruiting these birds to carry intelligence from German sympathisers in England. Our spies got to find this out from

captured pigeon personnel". The shabby Nazi plan was thwarted by the Army Pigeon Service Special Section, comprising two patriotic peregrine falcons. Indeed, a couple of pigeons were captured, and the secret files note that: "Both birds are now prisoners of war and are working hard at breeding English pigeons."

Never in the field of conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few birds of prey.

Criminal of week Have you seen this cutout? Staffordshire Police have had

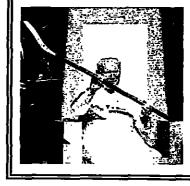
some trouble tracking the "flat-cap robber". He has been holding up banks, but his nondescript appearance has helped him to evade detectio The police have now resorted to carting this life-size cardboard cut-out around shopping malls. Keep 'em peeled.

Beetle of the week Have you seen this insect? The Asian longhorn beetle is extremely destructive and capable of wiping out many

the horse ° chestnut and the willow. It must be found. Anyone can join the Insect Service Special Section. Here is a life-size cutout to help you...

such as

image of the week At a rally for Catholic youth during his visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II was presented with a St Louis Blues hockey stick and jersey. Nice to see that the pontiff hasn't lost his sense of humour.





Holden: Ab-Fab lifestyle

WENDY HOLDEN lived the Ab-Fab able time and I think people want lifestyle on Tatler magazine and decided to draw on the torrid, solipsistic world she discovered there for the subject of the same glossy pages; she has become the literary equivalent of an It Girl, gracing the pages of tabloid and broadsheet alike. The media attention may be because the subject is close to many a journalist's heart and they are curious to determine whether, in fact, they make an in London. I think they just want to appearance in the book. Wendy, however, claims that it was due to her willingness to be proactive in publicising the book, "and the fact media experience?

glamour and fun,"

Is the book really a roman-à-clef? her recent novel, Simply Divine. As No. I don't think that is what people a result she has now found herself are interested in really. It's meant to be good fun and a jolly read, a bit

> That's what the average reader is Absolutely. I don't think the public is anxious to read about journalists

read something that's fun.

But you did draw on your own that there wasn't a third world war Oh, sure. But it was such good going on. Plus January is a miser- material. The really bizarre things COLD CALL

SALLY CHATTERTON RINGS WENDY HOLDEN

amalgamations of different people rather than portraits of real people I knew and worked with.

Are you consciously mocking the fashion business? Well, yes. Of course there is a certain amount of mockery. But there is a fine line between mockery and

in the book were too bizarre to You are always looking for the new make up. But the characters are only rother than enjoying the present in fashion. Does that make it a bit unsatisfying?

Well, I quite enjoyed all the "What's the new black? What's the new gardening". It all struck me as being rather good fun.

Does that constant desperation for something new and better define the Nineties reader?

I think people on magazines pro-bably think that's what people want to know. But I think they only want to read about it. It doesn't define their lifestyle.

What defines the Nineties woman? Well, no one thing, really. I suppose we know more about more things. We're far more pressurised these days. You know - career, lurve. We have to be superstars on all fronts. Everything we do has to be a success.

Why do you think that is the case? I'm not entirely sure but I would say that we have witnessed a fascinating progression from the terribly serious feminist in the Seventies, to

the careerist, power-shouldered, ball-breaking women of the Eighties. to the typical Nineties women who would certainly seem to be a rather harmless party girl.

You would characterise Nineties women as being harmless? I think the It Girls are symbols of our age. They've made a fortune out of being famous for being famous. They've got a lot out of life.

What will the millennium heroine

be like? I hope the stereotype of the unhappy single girl will die. Hopefully she'll stop thinking in a gender specific way. In fact I think that she'll be a

I made the front page

MY WEEK

SIX DAYS IN THE LIFE OF ARTHUR EDWARDS, 58, THE SUN'S ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHER, WHO THIS WEEK SNAPPED PRINCE CHARLES AND CAMILLA PARKER BOWLES TOGETHER IN PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME

Go to Sandringham to photograph the Queen Mother on her way to church. It's a lovely shot, as she is holding the Duke of Edinburgh's arm. I don't think the picture will be strong enough, though The journey from Brentwood to Sandringham is a 200-mile round trip and I'm tired.

Monday
Find out that the Queen Mother was rushed to hospital yesterday with a nosebleed. My picture has gone in - not because it's a nice picture, but because it's a good story (the Duke of Edinburgh has been cropped out of it).

I go to the office to do some planning with the picture editor. We want the best people with the best digital equipment for Thursday. I have known for some time that Charles and Camilla will be appearing together. I have always wanted to do this picture and am really pleased that Charles may finally be allowed to live like a normal human being. Later, I drive to Wolverhampton to meet the reporter, John Hepburn, to cover a crime story. In the evening, me and John go to an Italian restaurant.

Visit Stafford police HQ for a photo shoot and afterwards wire the photographs back from the police canteen. I make my way back home for about 6.30 to watch Leicester City beat Sunderland. After the match, I check on the Internet to see if my team, West Ham, have signed up Paulo Di Canio, but I can't find anything so I have an early night. I know the Charles and Camilla story is going to break tomorrow.

Wednesday

Get up early and make my way to the Ritz hotel, stopping off quickly at the office to pick up some more ladders and another photographer. We are the first to put up our ladders at around 10 past 10, and there are already a few others marking out spots for themselves. I go to a nearby hardware shop to buy some extra ladders, so we have six in total. Later, I return to the office to do some more planning.

I check into the Ritz, and have dinner

with Charles Rae - the food is fantastic. I have a seafood starter - scallops and lobster, followed by halibut, which is sensational. I am teetotal, so just



Arthur Edwards gets a ringside seat at the Ritz

have water and then a cup of tea. I watch pen, but I do a couple of radio interviews News at Ten and then Newsnight, but it's in my hotel room. It's tiring, but the paper a bit boring so I go to bed.

got to be in this kind of mood to get the best Wake up at 5 and have haddock and results. It will all be over in a flash. During the day, we take it in turns to leave the pen poached eggs. I do about 40 interviews throughout the day. Most are done from the - mainly just to thaw out, my feet are

freezing. With six of us there is always someone around to keep an eye on the ladders. In between interviews I chat with my mates. There are over 120 ladders, so there are always plenty of people to speak to.

I hope to God it's my picture that everyone will be looking at tomorrow. I am quietly confident that it will be, but it won't be the end of the world if my picture doesn't appear All six of The Sun's photographers will be busting a gut to get the best picture for the paper - there are no stars here tonight.

I get to the pen at about 6.15 to wait for Camilla. With so many photographers it can be quite frantic, but everyone manages to keep very cool. Camilla turns up late at about quarter to nine, she walks straight in and I can tell she's nervous. I go quickly to a local pub for a cheeseburger - it's horrible, I can't eat it. I go back to the pen and Charles arrives at 10.15. I think "Oh God, another hour to go," but the hour just

While I wait I'm becoming very tense and start to feel a cramp in my hands. They both come out together just before midnight. I've decided to shoot it tight, which means to go in for their heads - this takes a lot of courage at this time of night, with so little light. All the photographers are very disciplined and the whole thing is over in a blur. I only shoot one roll of film, there's no time to change it.

After they get in the car, I'm so excited that I jump over the barrier and run to my room to start processing the film. I finish at 1.30 and go to the Ritz bar for a Coca-Cola - it costs about £3, but I feel The Sun can afford it. I can't relax because I'm so tense, so I soak for half an hour in the bath before going to bed.

I am thrilled that my picture has made page one, even if it is only in one edition. I'm glad the job is done and out of the way, as I've been hyped up for weeks; everything else has been secondary. I feel contented now it's all over. I really fancy a bacon sandwich and go to a greasy spoon round the corner. Later, I go to photograph Charles at a youth project in Stevenage. In the evening I chill out with my wife and go to bed early. I've had a hell of a good week and I feel I've done

INTERVIEW BY DAISY PRICE

OK, so I'm a sheep. So what?

THE CAR radio was tuned to Radio 3 as I hunted for a parking space outside the cinema, and a hard-boiled New York writer was reading an extract from her latest book. I quickly gathered that she was contemplating her future with some hip bloke in his early twenties. In fact, just the kind of guy I was myself in that New York year filed away among my memories, when I packed fruit and vegetables on a street stall in Harlem, cooked shepherd's pie (how late-Nineties ironic, and this was the early Eighties) in a live-jazz gay bar, and

hung out at the legendary Mud Club. "At 40," the writer read on (and I'm paraphrasing from memory), "you'll be a couch potato, falling asleep in your comfortable chair, too tired to

rough-house any more..."
I congratulated myself smugly at having avoided this description, neatly side-stepping the fact that I have recently cultivated the habit of taking 40 winks in the early afternoon. Napping is naff, I agree, lady writer. But the Mediterranean-style siesta, now re-branded as the power snooze, is sophisticated, sexy even. And in the year of the euro, it's my contribution to practical European integration – part of my campaign to eat like an Italian, pay tax like a Frenchman, take holidays like a German, and siesta like a Sevillano.

As for my failure to "rough-house", I think I detect a transatiantic double entendre, but I'll settle for protesting that anyone with two sons has more than enough of that sort of behaviour to put up with, thank you very much.

"Or," she continued, "you'll become one of those middle-aged men who tries desperately to make up for the sports he missed out on in his youth, and frequently turns up in cycling shorts on inappropriate occasions."

Hold on, lady, do you know me from somewhere? Am I that transparent, 4,000 miles, five time zones and the Atlantic Ocean away? And anyway, I never go to the supermarket in cycling shorts, or arrive at dinner parties, or visit relatives in hospital. I wear them for cycling, for which they are eminently appropriate. As for catching up with the sports I missed out on... Well, in my youth I was far too busy getting down on the dance floor and hanging out at the bar to have time or energy for much else.

PARK LIFE



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No one likes to be reduced to an advertiser's market share or a pop sociologist's acronym. When the Young Urban Professional was first identified and satirised in the Eighties, we frequently overheard yuppies complaining at the tops of their voices about "bloody yuppies". We like to see ourselves as individuals, with unique tastes and experiences, when all the evidence is that we are sheep following the flock A good thing too, in many ways; if I were the only sedentary office worker in central London who wanted to play squash in my lunch break, there would be no squash club available for me within 10 minutes' walk of 500 potential opponents.

But no amount of rationale can expunge the shudder that passed through me when I heard that radio show. The thought that I can be slotted so neatly into a box with hundreds of Manhattan men nudging their middle years and probably tens of thousands more in towns and cities all over the world, only to be skewered in the acid prose of some female Tom Woolf, will haunt my hours of exercise for weeks to come. So next time I go to New York, on

some family package ticket, will I proudly pull on my cycling shorts and march into the Mud Club? Will I rough-house on the lounge-bar floor with my two sons, shouting "Get lost, yuppie scum" at anyone who dares to glance my way, just in case there's a hard-boiled woman writer in there somewhere, taking mental notes? I'm afraid not. Fil be the bloke in the battered leather jacket rescued from a suitcase in the attic, sipping a solitary Dos Equis beer for one more trip down memory lane. I wonder how: many of us will be there too.

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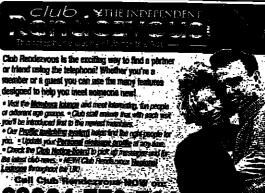
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THE WEEKEND REVIEW The Independent 30 January 1999

The latest art heist reveals museums and collectors are vulnerable to a new breed of gun-toting gangs. By Mary Braid

When did you last see your Turner?

armed men, calling themselves Bert and Tony: burst into York City Gallery, and bound and gagged four staff before making off with 11m Miros and 250 Chagalls. An investiworth of paintings. The curator, Richard Green, said the their of 20 works of art by men wielding a pistol and sawn-off shotgun, was the "darkest day" in the gallery's 100 year history. The art world fretted over the implications of the theft, but opinion was divided. Were the thieves professionals, or a couple of hicks who would not know a Constable from a Warhol?

Early reports claimed that police believed the raiders were "stealing to order" - that they knew what they were looking for and may have had links with drug gangs. Ports and airports were alerted to stop the paintings, including a Turner watercolour (pictured) and two works by the Italian master Bartolommeo, being spirited abroad.

North Yorkshire police, however, are sceptical about the thieves' organised crime links. Charles Hill. the former head of the Metropolitan Police's art and antiques squad - and now a risk manager with the art insurers Nordstern - points out that the criminals stole 200 from one of the gallery staff after the getaway car ran out of petrol. "These are probably two dumbos from Doncaster," he says. "The most stupid thing a criminal can do is to steal a famous painting. They are almost impossible to sell on."

Old masters occasionally turn up in him bags outside police stations. or are ransomed back to galleries by thieves after failing to flog them. Mr Hill believes the Turner is probably lying "on the top of a wardrobe somewhere in York or Doncaster".

Mark Dalrymple, a fine art loss adjuster and chairman of the **Council** for the Prevention of Art Theft, says the York paintings are likely by now to be acting as collateral in criminal deals. An estimated £500m worth of paintings, fine art for works of art, however, armed roband antiques is stolen every year in beries on galleries are still so rare

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House & Home

ast weekend two Britain, and £3bn worth is stolen world-wide. It may be near impossible to sell a stolen masterpiece, but the big names keep going walkabout.

Among those on the international missing list are 355 Picassos, 271 gation into organised crime in Italy revealed that Caravaggio's Adoration, stolen in 1969, was passed between a series of Mafia bosses before being destroyed. According to Mr Dalrymple, something similar is happening in Britain.

In his fight to recover paintings, Mr Dahrymple, working closely with the police, offers rewards for information and cultivates connections in the criminal underworld. Among

'These are two dumbos from Doncaster.

The most stupid thing you can do is steal a famous painting'

a host of missing treasures, he is currently pursuing two Turners (worth (24m) stolen in 1994 in Frankfurt while on loan from London's Tate Gallery, and a Titian (worth £6m) stolen in 1995 from the Marquis of Bath's Longleat estate. He says he knows from criminal connections that one of the missing works of art - he will not say which - has figured in a series of criminal deals.

That is not to say that those who do the stealing know anything about art. He recalls a recent break-in at a private home when a £750,000 Kandinsky was passed over in favour of a £10,000 painting sharing the same wall.

Stolen art can change hands quickly. It is sold for cash - at a fraction of its open-market value - then swapped for drugs or used as collateral for loans. Despite the criminal world's growing affection



Turner's 'Rievaulx Abbey': one of the paintings stolen in the armed raid on York City Gallery

that the memory lingers. The most famous, an attack on Sir John Soane's gallery in London in the Eighties, was a bloody affair. Police were waiting for the gang and, in the gunfight which ensued, one robber was killed. Bullet holes still decorate the gallery entrance.

More recently - in 1997 - Russell Grant-McVicar, son of the famous former bank robber John McVicar, held up a London gallery at gunpoint before running off with Picasso's Tête de Femme, worth £650,000.

Perhaps any operation in which the Trace, an art industry body which getaway car is a taxi is bound to fail. Just 10 days later, Peter Scott, the celebrated "gentleman thief", who famously boasted that he once stole Sophia Loren's knickers as well as Dalrymple, remain "pitifully" low Kaher jewels, was arrested trying to sell the painting on.

Mr Dalrymple says the York raid just three weeks after an armed attack on an Oxford Street gallery - "is a sign that the gangs are paintings will soon be circulated by works they buy are not stolen.

works with the police to recover art and antiques. They will join 100,000 other treasures on the database.

Overall recovery rates, says Mr trina Burroughs of Trace says art is seen as a soft target. With police resources scarce, the industry tries to help itself. In March it will launch a new "due diligence" code, backed by government, which will place more getting bolder". Pictures of the York onus on dealers to establish that the

was being looked after. Mr Heal was physically fine but, widowed just the year before, chronically lonely.

woman from social services" who

came to call last year, to check he

"She was very nice," says the retired architect. "I told her all of my contemporaries had died off and it vas hard to make new friends."

The social worker came with an assistant. Perhaps callous crime requires a dark sense of humour but she told Mr Heal the assistant would handle any heavy furniture which needed moving. During a later visit she drugged Mr Heal with sleeping pills, and her assistant moved selected pieces into a waiting van. When I woke up I went to check the time," Mr Heal says. "But the grandfather clock was gone." So was a Mary and William cabinet, other antique furniture and a valuable early-19th-century painting.

Charlene Davis, 41, and her boyfriend Duncan Cousins, 34, an antiques dealer, were jailed for seven vears. Police insisted at first that the theft at Mr Heal's was an isolated case, until an officer in another area spotted similarities with local crimes Investigations led to the couple being convicted of theits in 400 houses, all over Britain, involving £6m worth of art and antiques.

This case shows how easily stolen works can still pass through respectable art circles. Mr Heal's stolen picture passed through the hands of four unsuspecting art dealers, including David Collins, the paintings expert from the Antiques Roadshow, before being traced to South Carolina.

Ross Parry

Of course, the successful art thief

does not steal an old master. It is the

"second division" works - paint-

ings, clocks, furniture, silverware,

not well known but very valuable -

which bring profits with least risk.

They are housed in poorly secured

municipal galleries, country houses

and private homes all over Britain.

The elderly, often physically or men-

tally vulnerable and with no idea how

valuable their possessions have

Robert Heal, 94, remembers "the

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become, are major prey.

Last week's events must have left municipal art galleries with an acute sense of vulnerability. They have probably never considered themselves targets for gun-toting gangs. Many galleries - like York City - do not even have their works insured. In accordance with council policy they take a "calculated risk".

"We just never envisaged something like this," says Richard Green, the gallery's curator for more than 20 years. "One fears a new chapter (in art thefts) may be opening up.

House & Home

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Lady Glendevon

AS THE only child of William Somerset Maugham, perhaps the century's grumpiest writer, and Syrie. his wife turned society decorator. Liza Glendevon's life was complicated even before its conception. As the First World War was declared and Maugham left England for France (where he would meet and fall in love with the disastrous Gerald Haxton). Syrie, then still married to Henry Wellcome, became pregnant and Maugham accepted responsibility. In the event, Syrie Wellcome miscarried; a second pregnancy quickly followed, and produced their daughter, Elizabeth Mary, by emergency Caesarean, on

Maugham married her mother two years later, in Jersey City. As Bryan Connon notes in Somerset and All the Maughams (1966), Maugham's attitude to his daughter would ever be complex: his wife would later accuse him. "When you asked me to have a child, you said you wanted a child but you lied: you didn't want a child, you only wanted to be a father." His daughter's birth seemed to underline the threat Maugham felt from women. He wrote to a friend, congratulating him on the birth of his son. "We can all write books, but it is given to but few to produce a male child. I have never been able to manage more than a daughter."

The Maughams' doomed match soon came apart. Separated in 1925. the couple divorced four years later. Syrie Maugham was given £600 per amum to bring up their daughter. She tried to ignore her exhusband's vindictiveness, according to David Herbert's Second Son (1972), for Liza's sake: "Syrie was determined to show him she could earn her own living and support both her-

self and their beloved daughter . . . " Her mother's strange state somewhere between hostess and businesswoman - introduced Liza. as she became known (after her father's best-selling novel Liza of Lumbeth, to the glitterati of the day. potential customers for Syrie & Co's trademark limed Louis Quinze chairs and plush lambskin carpets. This was the environment in which Line Maugham grew up: Noel Cowand who called her Liza Boor composing songs in her mother's house, Cecil Beaton photographing her, and Beverly Nichols gossiping about her. "Liza is a perfect darling," effused Beaton of the 13-year-old. "I adore her. She is unique, wise, sophisticated and yet very childish." David Herbert declared unequivocally that Syrie's "adoration of Liza was touching and her whole life

revolved around her". Photographed in a characteristically Surreal pose by Madame Yevonde in 1935 – displaying her ivory skin and bright blue eyes - Liza Maugham remained firmly in the fashion spotlight. She dressed with such outre designers of the day as Charles James, gave numerous interviews, and, when on one occasion she drove in a sports car through London, it was reported in a newspaper under the headline "Hatless in Berkeley Square" as a daring fash-

ion gesture. In 1936 she married Vincent Paravicini, son of the Swiss Minister to the Court of St James, at St Mar-

of the writer, Maugham pronounced him "a most beautiful young man". A son was born in October 1937:

"Liza thinks herself very clever to have produced a son and she wants to call him Nicholas Somerset." noted her father. While her husband. now a naturalised British subject. served in the Pacific and Italy, she spent the war in the US (like her father), staying with the Doubledays on Long Island where she contacted measles, pneumonia and chickenpox whilst pregnant with her second child. (Resentful relatives of the Doubledays would knock on her bedroom door and say, "Don't you know you are going to die? Of course you are. I heard the doctor say so.") She survived, gave birth to a daughter, Camilla, in March 1941, and went to work in the British Library of Information in New York.

She also visited Hollywood, where she was taken out by Errol Flynn, who dined her on wild boar killed with a bow and arrow, while a bulging-eyed Bette Davis cornered

When she drove in a sports car through London, it was reported in a newspaper under the headline 'Hatless in Berkeley Square' as a daring fashion gesture

garet's, Westminster, "Is it a C.B. Cochran first night?" mused the Express's "William Hickey". "No, it's an issue of Vogue come to life." Dressed by Schiaparelli, she was "bride of the month", surrounded by royalty, aristocracy, Osbert Sitwell. Elsie de Wolfe and Marie Tempest. At the reception at the Swiss Legation, a cake designed by Oliver Messel was the centrepiece. Maugham's wedding present was a portfolio of shares, a house near Henley, and the lease of 15 Wilton Street - which had been decorated by Syrie.

The couple honeymooned in the Villa Mauresque, lent to them by Maugham for the occasion. He appeared to approve of the match: Paravicini was considered one of the best-looking men in London and, as Ted Morgan records in his biography her at a cocktail party and told her. "Please do thank your daddy for Mildred; it was like having an acting textbook to guide me" - Davis's appearance in the film version of Maugham's Of Human Bondage had established her as a star.

Liza and her son and daughter returned to England in 1944. Paravicini, now a lieutenant-colonel in an armoured-car unit serving in New Guinea, had proved a gambler and a drinker when he returned to the US in 1943, suffering from malaria. After Liza and her children returned to England the following year, the couple divorced. In 1948 she married Lord John Hope, the 36year-old son of the second Marquess of Linlithgow, a stolid Conservative politician who would take the title of Baron Glendevon in 1964 after ser-

vice in the Commonwealth and Scottish Offices. A son, Julian (the present Lord Glendevon), was born in

1950; another, Jonathan, in 1952. Syrie Maugham died in July 1955, nursed by her daughter; her death "heralded Willie's decline into senility" as Connon writes. The year before Maugham had formed a company to take over the Villa Mauresque and given Liza the shares. This legal ruse now became, in his mind, a means by which he would be thrown out of his own home. It was just one example "of a childish illogicality influenced and encouraged by Alan Searle [WSM's secretary and lover, whom he would adopt as a son] who saw Liza as a rival and feared for his financial future after Willie's death ... " According to Searle, Willie wrote a new will each week.

Relations reached a nadir in 1962 with the imminent publication of Maugham's memoirs, Looking Back, in which it was rumoured he denied - "in a characteristically reptilian statement" as Rebecca West saw it - paternity of Liza. He did not, but he did declare her to be illegitimate. Scarcely had this furore died down when, insisting he was near penury, Maugham sold 35 paintings at Sotheby's; unfortunately, nine of them had been assigned to Liza in return for her signing away rights to his royalties.

She could not understand what

had turned her father against her. Dearest Daddy, you are making me quite miserable by refusing to see me . . . How can you suddenly turn on me when I have done absolutely nothing?" The situation may have been explained by a bitter comment made by Maugham to Alan Searle: The trouble with those two ithe John Hopes is that they're too damned happy"; and by the fact that Maugham was already suffering the effects of Alzheimer's.

Partly persuaded by her husband. Liza Hope sued Sotheby's for the proceeds of the paintings belonging to her. Peter Wilson, the auctioneer, informed the press that this was "a family dispute. It has nothing to do with us." The publication of Looking Back did little to help matters.

In 1962 began the extraordinary legal action in which Maugham's



lawyers issued a statement announcing their client's decision to sue to deny legal recognition of Lady John Hope, saying she was the legal daughter of Henry Wellcome. and proposing to revoke all gifts to her. including shares in the Villa Mauresque company under Article 950 of the French civil code. In a perverse inversion, he further stated that his daughter had never taken care of him. "and that her claim to the paintings constituted ingratitude". The Daily Telegraph reported that Lady John Hope was "shocked, surprised and absolutely mystified, adding, When people get very old they

In February 1963 Liza Hope appealed against Alan Searie's adoption - an act which Maugham intended to disinherit her. The case

become a little strange sometimes."

was heard in Nice in June, and the court declared her to be Maugham's legitimate daughter, and ordered the adoption of Searle to be annulled. Maugham appealed, and lost. A joint statement was issued: "Mr W.S. Maugham and his daughter, Lady John Hope, are happy to state that all differences between them have been settled."

Maugham died on 15 December 1965, although it took Alan Searle 24 hours to inform Lady Glendevon (as she had become) of the fact. She finally inherited the Villa Mauresque. The house was subsequently sold

for development. Liza Glendevon's life with her second husband was indeed a happy one. She was not however a typical Tory wife, but always maintained

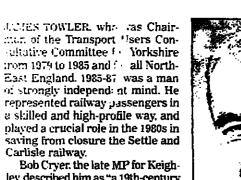
her own spin on the events in her

extraordinary life. David Herbert thought her "a kind and thoughtful wife, and an understanding and gentle mother". It is evident she inherited few of her irascible father's genes. Living on the Wilton estate, and in Guernsey, the couple "enjoyed the friendship". in Hugo Vickers's words, of senior members of the Royal Family. Lord Glendevon died in 1996; his widow returned to London to live in Eaton Square.

PHILIP HOARE

Elizabeth Mary Maugham: born Rome 1 September 1915; married 1936 Vincent Paravicini ione son, one daughter; marriage dissolved). 1948 Lard John Hope (created 1964 Baron Glendevon, died 1996; two sons); died Hopetoun. Lothian 27 December 1998.

James Towler



lev. described him as "a 19th-century Whig with a radical edge". Towler was recognised by press and public across the North of England as the strongest-ever official defender of rail users, while being seen by some (but not all) British Rail managers, and by Conservative ministers, as an unwelcome persistent critic. He enjoyed recounting how one told him, "The trouble with you is that you travel on too many trains." Managers, he realised, did not travel on their trains enough. His approach to public transport needs of ordinary people remains of central importance in the era of the Labour government's "New Deal for the Railways".

Until Towler's appointment in 1979. BR had had an easy ride from the "toothless watchdog" commit- and South Yorkshire local rail sertees. He dramatically raised the Yorkshire TUCC's profile and ended its subservience to BR, breaking a practice that had given the TUCC a poor reputation in the Beeching era for not resisting closures.



'Whig with a radical edge'

An early success was the transfer of diesel High Speed Trains on to the Sheffield-London route, left out of Intercity modernisation in the 1970s' "The Age of the Train" under Sir Peter Parker. Working with Sheffield City Council, Towler cajoled BR out of a "Waiting for Godot" stance that only electrification of the Midland Main Line would bring better services. Subsequently he did much to encourage growth in West vices, working to smooth over difficulties between the local Passenger

Transport Executives and BR. With the contentious Serpell Report on Railway Finances publish-

Huddersfield line serving south Pennine communities, and of the cut the main line from the south into Hull. Both continued in service after negotiation with local authorities,

Towler working behind the scenes. When Towler first faced up to BR's proposed closure of the Settle-Carlisle line, the 72-mile "finest scenic route in England", there was a sense of doom over rural railways. There were few at first who believed could be saved.

Towler's crucial role was that he slowed down the process by challenging BR to produce justification for closure, which it never could, and bought time for the national movement to gather to save the line. He found legal faults in BR's procedures. and closure notices were reissued more than once: what he called the "Battle of the Small Print". And he rigorously and relentlessly presented the facts of a complex and controversial public issue to an impatient, often indifferent and

largely ignorant government. While more politically favoured chairmen were regularly reappointed, Towler was refused a new term at the height of his reputation in March 1987, causing angry Coming options for major network mons exchanges. He had taken his

longer off the agenda. Towler's TUCC — seriously, and it had "strongly and found itself handling objections to the emphatically recommended the axing of the Sheffield-Penistone- closure of the Settle-Carlisle line be refused. Both BR and the Department of Transport wanted him out: Goole swingbridge, which would have a hapless consumer affairs minister. Lord Lucas, obliged.

After his report to ministers in December 1986 and his subsequent sacking, he was elected Chairman of the Railway Development Society in Yorkshire, cheerfully describing his job as having been privatised. He carried on in his polite, patient but determined way, speaking for passengers and fighting to save the Settle-Carlisle line. After a confused attempt by the Government in 1988 to "privatise or close" it, Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, harassed by a set of transport disasters, refused closure on 16 April 1989. Towler told the story in The Battle for the Settle & Carlisle (1990).

Towler lived to see the reversal of rail cutbacks: the Settle-Carlisle line now carries modern local trains serving reopened Dales stations and is again being heavily used by freight. Less happily, he watched the emasculation of the TUCC after his dismissal, initially by weaker appointments. Their reorganisation in the 1994 rail privatisation led to imposition of a deadening bureaucracy and departure of staff and members knowledgeable about railways. In July 1998 it was, however,

cutbacks in 1982, closures were no committee's legal powers and duty announced that users' committees! OSCAR CULLMANN, the Protestant will move to the Strategic Rail theologian and New Testament Authority and be strengthened.

man. He left school at 16 and followed his enthusiasm for films by working as a junior cinema manager before joining the family engineering business. He was later chairman of a plant manufacturer and a director of Pennine Radio. West Yorkshire's first commercial station. He was an enthusiast for light entertainment, and had a long association with The Stage, reporting on performers throughout Yorkshire, as well as reviewing television in later years. An opponent of Britain's EEC entry in the early 1970s, he was drawn into regional CBI activities; the CBI nominated him to the Yorkshire TUCC. Local broadcasting experience made him

and excellent writer and speaker. He married Muriel Myers in 1956. She was a constant support to him throughout his campaigning for rail users: "You have to laugh, don't you?" was her regular comment on the absurder actions of officialdom.

MARK SULLIVAN James Drummond Towler. railway users' representative and busi-Muriel Myers (one son); died Leeds 26 November 1998.

Oscar Cullmann

scholar, was one of this century's Born in 1932. Towler was the ecumenical pioneers. A lay member only son of a West Riding business- of the (Lutheran) Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine, he became involved in dialogue with Catholic and Orthodox as far back as the 1920s - long

before it became fashionable. His openness to Christians of other denominations helped forge a true ecumenical spirit in the theological faculty of Basle University, where he taught from 1938 to 1972 as Professor of New Testament and Ancient Christian History.

Born in Strasbourg in 1902, he studied at the university there and Protestant to the Pope at the Sorbonne in Paris. He taught at Strasbourg University from 1927 to 1938 before being appointed to Basle, where he spent the bulk of his time until he retired at 70. He showed a great commitment to the students, running a hostel for theological students with his sister Louise.

In 1968-69 he served as Rector. From 1948 he also served as Professor of Protestant Theology at the Sorbonne, as well as teaching courses at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris and at the Waldensian seminary in Rome. But his greatest influence came from his guest lectures nessman: born Shipley. Yorkshire | around the world and his writing. In 31 December 1932: married 1956 his long career he completed more than 100 titles (one of which describes

the origins of the Christmas tree). Among his more influential works were Christ and Time and Baptism in the New Testament (both published in English translation in 1950). Salvation in History (1967 in English) and The Christology of the New Testament (1959 in English). His last book was Proyer in the New

Testament (1994) Cullmann argued that what is most distinctive about the New Testament is its view of time and history. Running through the course of world history has been a relatively narrow stream of sacred history, at the key point of which is Jesus Christ. He believed this provided the clue to

understanding the whole of history. He also wrote a number of works focused on a theological understanding of ecumenism. Many of these concerned relations between the Protestant and Catholic Churches, such as Catholics and Protestants: a proposal for realising Christian solidarity (British publication 1960) and Vatican Council II:

the new direction (1968). Cullmann's views, especially on the role of St Peter, outlined in his book Peter - Disciple, Apostle, Martyr (1952) were well received in the



was received by Popes Pius XII, John XXIII and, above all, Paul VI. The Protestant theologian Karl Barth used to say teasingly, "Oscar, on your gravestone it will say, 'Here lies the adviser to three popes"!" Cullmann's conversations with Paul VI gave rise to the plan for an ecumenical institute in Jerusalem,

founded at Tantur in 1972. Culimann had attended the Second Vatican Council of 1962-65 as an observer and had recorded his impressions of the Council. Thirty years later, in 1993, he was the first Protestant to receive the Pope Paul VI Prize, presented to him by

Cardinal Carlo Martini of Milan. Despite his firm commitment to ecumenism, he was not a supporter of a new "World Unity Church" to bring together all Christians. His 1986 book Unity Through Diversity, which summed up his lifetime experience, argued instead for a "community of autonomous churches".

As he declared in 1972, ecumenism airned at fusing the churches would not only destroy the true unity in the Holy Spirit, but would lead Christians of dif-ferent denominations to the temptation to abandon the foundations of their faith and to seek the principle of unity outside this faith... Only an ecumenism that respects the diversity of charisms can unite us in Christ, while at the same time leading the Christian churches of all denominations back to the sources of the Christian faith.

The current troubles of the World Council of Churches, where many Orthodox Churches have been questioning their continued membership over the perceived liberal Protestant agenda of the organisation, demonstrate how timely Cullmann's message remains.

FELIX CORLEY

Oscar Cullmann, theologian: born Strasbourg, Germany 25 February 1902; Professor of New Testament and Ancient Church History. Basle Abergavenny 28 December 1998. | the highest level were unusual, he onix. France 16 January 1999. University 1938-72; died Cham-

Oswald Jones

DURING THE Fifties and Sixties, Oswald Jones photographed both the up-and-coming and the arrived of the London arts world: his list of portraits reads like a page from

Who's Who. Among his subjects were the Donleavy. John Osborne and Andrew Doris Lessing, Bernice Rubens, a mechanic," he later remarked. Colin Wilson, Henry Williamson, Lynn Reid Banks, Eva Figes, Raymond Williams, Laura Del Rivo, Ann Quin and Alan Burns. There musicians, composers, poets, cartoonists, art dealers, a film director or two, comedians, politicians and Hastings, then a road sweeper.) even one photographer - John Deakin. Much of his work was commissioned - Joan Plowright on stage at the Royal Court, and

Norman Wisdom for the Daily Mail

He was brought up in the London Welsh world, born to a Welsh father and a Scottish mother in Paddington in 1929. At an early age he acquired a box camera. Later he enrolled at playwrights Brendan Behan, Bern- the Regent Street Polytechnic School ard Kops. Michael Hastings, J.P. of Photography and did his National Service in the RAF. "I wanted to Sinclair. The novelists included be a photographer so they made me

After National Service he joined the staff of Condé Nast, where he enjoyed working on architectural features, but avoided fashion phowere actors and theatre critics, tography. He left in the early 1960s, to work from a studio in St John's Wood. (It was there he met Michael

Jones's photographs appeared in the national papers and magazines and a shot of Brendan Behan in a pub in Blackheath provided an early break. The writer had refused

though many of his subjects to allow the American Irving Penn to photograph him - and bawled him out of the pub - as the latter had refused an offer of a pint. Jones turned up an hour later and got both. The American and British editions of Vogue used the picture - the Americans paid him \$100, the British £5.

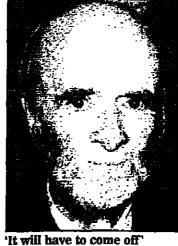
For much of the 1960s he worked on documentaries in Africa and Turkey for British television. He in Angola while on patrol with the Portuguese army. They were later arrested as, being bearded, they were assumed to be Cubans.

In Zanzibar he photographed Che Guevara surrounded by bodyguards. "I did not approach too closely." Che was there to support the revolution against the Sultan. A year later Jones had talks in Dar-es-Salaam with rebels from the Congo with a view to photographing the conflict there. This came to nothing, Many of

the South African mercenaries in the conflict were also bearded and one leaned across the table and said to Jones, "It will have to come off."

When he returned to London in the 1970s the freelance market had collapsed and he taught architectural photography at Guildford School of Art. He was based for much of the time at Rolston in Hereford. moving to Capel-y-ffin, Powys, where and his colleagues came under fire a loose artistic community had emerged. He settled in Abergavenny in the early 1980s and worked on the Abergaverny Chronicle 1984-95, until

> cataracts forced his retirement. Inspired by Schubert's Winterreise. Ossie Jones published a collection of photos with poetry by Frances Horovitz and Roger Garfitt as an act of homage to South Wales. Winterreise: an exhibition of landscape photographs by Oswald Jones (1982) accompanied an exhibition at Canterbury Cathedral. In 1997, an



exhibition of his portraits was held in Swansea. He gave his collection to the Abergavenny Museum

T. J. WALKER

Oswald David Lloyd Jones. photographer: born London 16 January 1929; married 1955 Marjorie Wilkinson (marriage dissolved 1959); died Vatican. At a time when contacts at THE WEEKEND REVIEW

John Milnes-Smith

THE ARTIST and architect John Milnes-Smith was one of the pre-Second World War generation who took part in the optimistic resurgence of British art in He was trained as an architect,

studying from 1934 to 1938 at the Architectural Association, and qualifying in 1939. During the war he served with the 14th Army and in Burma. After it, he worked in private practice as an architect and became a specialist in planning regulations, specifically in the field of the conservation and preservation of historic buildings. From 1963 to 1978 he worked with the Historic Buildings Division of the Greater London Council.

Milnes-Smith began to paint in the 1940s in a representational style, but soon moved towards abstraction. In 1951 he took part in a pioneering exhibition, "British Abstract Art", at Gimpel Fils in London. He participated in many group show in the 1950s including the London Group, the Institute of Contemporary Arts, the Redfern Gallery, Lords Gallery and the Artists' International Association (AIA). In 1952 he was included in "The Mirror and the Square" at the ALA, an exhibition encompassing both social realism (the "mirror") and constructive

abstraction (the "square"). In 1957 he was one of the exhibitors in "Metavisual, Tachiste, Abstract" at the Redfern, alongside most of the key exponents of British abstract painting of the time. Held the year after the first wave of American Abstract Expressionism arrived in Britain, as part of "Modern Art in the United States" at the Tate Gallery, it can be seen retrospectively as a seminal showing. In 1959, anther influential Tate exhibition, "New inerican Painting", strengthened the impact of the Abstract Expressionists.

Milnes-Smith's paintings of the 1950s have a European flavour, close in spirit to that of the Scottish artist William Gear, a member of the Cobra Group, and the French artist Alfred Manessier. both of whose paintings utilised a linear armature containing areas of strong colour. In a review of Milnes-Smith's first one-man show at the New Vision Centre Gallery in 1959, Ian Forbes White wrote that "the forms of Milnes-Smith's by paintings are held together by a framework of black lines, and for the most part squares of luminous colours positively flying out of a background of cloudy

"s or othre browns".

By the late 1950s, Milnes-Smith's paintings had become more emotional and gestural - his response to the pervading influence of the Abstract Expressionists. Like them he worked on a flat surface, but his "arena" was relatively domestic in scale - a table

rather than the floor, in a room in his home. His works were modest in size compared to those produced by the Americans but, as Marina Vaizey pointed out in the catalogue for his 1990 show at Austin Desmond, "their explorations

of space are grand as well as intimate". In 1958 Milnes-Smith was included in "British Abstract Painting" at the Auckland City Art Gallery, New Zealand; in 1961 he was one of "Eight British Artists" Terry Frost, Patrick Heron, Peter Lanyon, Alan Davie, Elisabeth Frink, Kenneth Armitage, and Jack Smith were the others) at the Jefferson Place Gallery in Washington, DC. He was a member of the Central Committee of the AIA 1962-64. In the late 1950s he began to produce

collages, combining torn scraps of printed and plain paper with crayon lines reminiscent of the graphisms of Roger Hilton. He used ephemera such as old gallery invitations, paint charts, fragments of documents, scraps of discarded drawings and paintings, even attaching paper and card to the background support with pins. These works, made intuitvely, have an almost casual. effortless effect, as well as great vitality and sophistication. His collages of

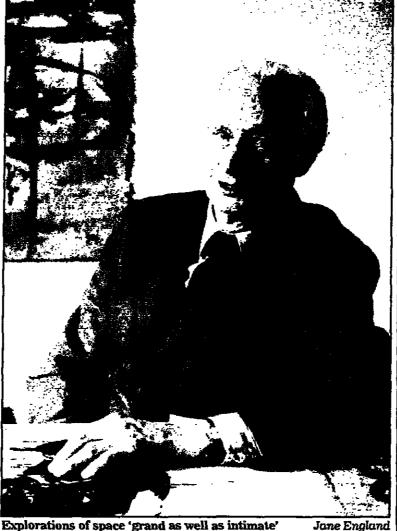
His collages – using old invitations. paint charts, scraps of drawings - have an almost casual, effortless effect

recent years retained this freshness and

In 1963 he had a one-man exhibition the Drian Gallery. It was the beginning of a long association, and he exhibited there regularly for over 20 years. In 1980 he was one of the artists selected by Halima Nalecz, the Drian's director, for the collection she donated to the Gdansk National Museum in Poland.

Milnes-Smith last exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 1998. Ten years earlier he showed with England & Co with another artist in "Reflections of the Fifties", and later in the same year took part in "Post-War British Abstract Art" at Austin Desmond, where he had a retrospective in 1990. Throughout the 1990s he contributed to numerous group exhibitions at England & Co, the last in August 1998.

He was genuinely - and generously



Explorations of space 'grand as well as intimate'

 interested in the work of other artists, and with his wife Monica attended gatherings and exhibitions throughout his life. He constantly looked at other artists' work, and subtly absorbed the influence of those he particularly admired. He was attracted by the work of European artists such as Jean Dubuffet, Auguste Herbin, Asger Jorn, and Alfred Manessier and among British artists, the work of Prunella Clough, Victor Pasmore, Eduardo Paolozzi and Alan Davie. Davie was one of the first artists he came to know well; other artist friends included William Scott, Fred

John Milnes-Smith was consistent in his interests and aesthetic: late last year he was delighted when his wife gave him a small work by Prunella Clough he had admired at an exhibition at the Annely Juda Gallery. He liked to live with

Uhiman and F.E. MacWilliam.

works by other artists, and moved drawings and small paintings around his home so he could study and see them afresh. He looked at his own works in the same way; sometimes using a mirror to see them from a different angle. putting recent pictures into old frames and hanging them on the stairs so he could see them in passing and decide on any changes. He was always revising his pictures, painting over them again and again, their surfaces growing ever richer and more textured. His own work continually evolved and developed - he painted until the end of his life.

JANE ENGLAND

John Milnes-Smith, artist and architect: born Laleham, Middlesex 8 August 1912; married 1939 Monica Bishop (one son, one daughter), died London 20 December 1998.

LITERARY NOTES

A whodunit is born every 13 hours

IF THE end of the Cold War all but killed off the spy novel, what are we to make of the continuing success of the detective story? Not only is it abundant in bookshops and libraries and on best-seller lists, but television drama would be bereft without its Morses, Wexfords, Frosts, Wycliffes and Cadiaels - all

In fact, on the surface the crime-writing industry is booming. The author and commentator Mike Ripley has calculated that a new crime novel will be published in the UK every 13 hours during the first quarter of this year, and that well over 500 new titles will have appeared by the time Hogmanay comes round. Of these, roughly 40 per cent will be by American authors such as Grisham and Cornwell, but that still leaves room for a flourishing British crime industry. What's more, of last year's hundred top paperback best-sellers - fiction and non-fiction combined over 40 could be classified as

derived from novels.

These days one assumes that the whodunit genre died out with the likes of Christie, Sayers and Allingham. But in fact young writers are being attracted to the form because of their love of the hard-boiled American mentality: Elmore Leonard's dialogue; James Ellroy's characters. They may never have read a traditional whodunit, but they could

crime or thriller.

major in the screenplays of Quentin Tarantino.

Circumstance and society are often their motivating force. So long as drug-taking remains an illegal activity, those who write about a community of drug-takers will feel bound to have crime on their minds. But crime writers are also finding that the form gives them certain freedoms. In writing about crime. we are writing about the social order at the end of our century. Being "entertainments" does not mean whodunnits cannot carry serious messages, too; it just means they find a good-sized audience for that message.

This "second Golden Age" of crime fiction can be measured not only by the amount of print available or the prevalence of detectives on our screens. For a long time. London boasted only one specialist shop selling whodunits. Today there are three. New crime magazines and fanzines are springing up, too, and the UK can now boast its own annual crime fiction convention, "Dead

The whodunit was first pronounced dead sometime around 1938, yet has always been capable of reinvention and regeneration. Each new generation of writers brings with it a new readership. though why those readers are attracted to the form is another question entirely. We live in a society which is becoming ever less crimeridden (if the statistics are to be believed). Were there to be a correlation with the spy story, then the crime novel should currently be in decline, unless it's true that, despite the figures, our actual fear of crime is greater than ever. It all depends on why readers open a Rendell or the latest Minette Walters. Primarily, as was ever the case. they do so for a good story. something gripping and involving and pacy. There's also the vicarious thrill of pain and panic which they can feel without having to ex-

perience at first hand.

Over the past 40 years or

so, the move in the British crime novel has been away from Marpleland and towards a more realistic portrayal of crime and its consequences. Often this has meant using police detectives as heroes rather than the amateur of old, an assertion any week's television scheduling will corroborate. But Britain's "new wave" writers feel constrained by this, and many have begun writing from the criminal's perspective, or from the point of view of a new breed of private eye. Quite a few even choose to set their books in the United States - either in homage to writers they admire, or because they have one eye on an American sales market. Or maybe just to show that they can.

Ian Rankin is the author of 'Dead Souls' (Orion, £9.99)

Mamam

Judge Bruce Griffiths

ONE OF the most distinguished members of the judiciary in Wales, Bruce Griffiths had a reputation as a hardworking, fair-minded judge on the Wales and Chester circuit where he sat from 1972 until his retirement in 1986. He also played a prominent part in the stural affairs of Wales.

His greatest passion was for the visual arts. He was particularly enthusiastic about modern Welsh art, filling his home at Whitchurch, a suburb of north Cardiff, with canvases and busts by contemporary practitioners, many of whom became friends.

He was appointed to the Welsh Arts Council in 1972 and to chairmanship of its Art Committee three years later. He spoke with authority and eloquence on behalf of visual artists, summoning all his barrister's skills to argue his com-- mittee's case for a greater allocation of the council's funds and taking every opportunity of ensuring that Welsh art was promoted at home and abroad. From 1981 to 1992 he was Chairman of the Welsh Sculpture Trust and did much to encourage an art-form which many regarded as still, in Wales, in its infancy.

But it was as a leading member of the Contemporary Art Society for Wales that he left the most lasting impression. Irman from 1987 to 1992, and Vice-



No truck with the second-rate

Chairman thereafter, he led the society in its task of commissioning and exhibiting the work of living painters with inspirational panache. He was instrumental in bringing a number of European artists to Wales. His only public reward for this selfless work was a silver medal presented to him, somewhat incongruously, on behalf of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1986.

Griffiths was born in 1924 at Barry in the old county of Glamorgan, although his family had strong connections with Aberdare. Educated at Whitchurch Grammar School in Cardiff and at King's College London, he served with the RAF until 1947 and, after demobilisation, was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1952. He was a founder-member of the Bow Group, which was intended to be an effective counter to the Fabian Society, and served as its first chairman.

Although not Welsh-speaking, Griffiths thought of himself as a patriot but one concerned with the highest standards and having no truck with the merely parochial or the second-rate, and he chose to follow a legal career in Wales. From 1964 to 1970 he was Chairman of the Local Appeals Tribunal of the Ministry of Social Security in Cardiff and from 1968 to 1972 Vice-Chairman of the Mental Health Tribunal, Wales. He was appointed Assistant Recorder of Birkenhead in 1965 and served in the same capacity in Cardiff, Swansea and Merthyr Tydfil from 1966 to 1971. Before taking silk in 1970, he was Deputy Chairman of Glamorgan Quarter Sessions and Commissioner of the Assize Roll Courts of Justice in London.

He was also well-read in English poetry. Every Christmas he would make

a small anthology of his favourite ocern which he sent to a select number of his friends. He suffered from asthma and spent part of the year in Mallorca, where one of his sons lives. During our last conversation, he told me with great pride that his grandchildren spoke four languages: English, Welsh, Catalan and Castilian. His wife, Mary, herself the daughter of a judge, has learned Welsh, as has their son David.

Central to Bruce Griffiths's work as a judge and his support for the visual and plastic arts in Wales was his Christian faith, which he expressed in his devotion to the Anglican Church. A regular communicant at St Mary's in Whitchurch, he was a member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales from 1978 to 1992 and President of its Provincial Court from 1979 to 1992. He was also Chancellor to the Diocese of Monmouth until ill-health forced him to give up many of his public offices.

MEIC STEPHENS

Bruce Fletcher Griffiths, judge: born Barry. Glamorgan 28 April 1924; called to the Bar, Gray's Inn 1952; QC 1970; judge on the Wales and Chester circuit 1972-86; married 1952 Mary Jenkins (two sons, one daughter); died Cardiff 17 January 1999.

There should be nothing holy about matrimony

THE TIME has come for marriage to be demoted. The Church should admit it got it wrong when, in the 13th century, it declared it to be a sacrament. The Church of England should quit saying marriage is a "way of life created and hallowed by God". It should take marriage down from its nedestal and rank it alongside magistrates' courts or the Houses of Parliament. It may be the backbone of our society but it is an institution

made by man none the less. This week church leaders in Birmingham accused a local radio station of reducing a "sacred and momentous decision to a media event". BRMB, an independent radio station, organised a competition called "Two Strangers and a Wedding". It was entered by about 100 men and 100 women who wanted to be married but hadn't got there via dating.

Psychologists and counsellors were brought in to assess which entrants were the most compatible with each other. The winners were rewarded with an all-expenses-paid wedding, a honeymoon in the Bahamas, a posh rent-free flat for a year and a snazzy car. When Carla Germaine and Greg Cordell married on Monday they had never seen each other before.

The clergy were right. It was a media event and BRMB was milking it. The idea of two people marrying before they met is so counter to modern Western culture that the nation was agog. But were the clerics right to say it was sacred?

Marriage has a grubby history which is easier to explain by saying it was designed by man for the benefit of blokes, than that it was created by our maker. In Old Testament times men were entitled to have several wives but women couldn't take their pick of husbands. In the days of the New Testament a man could divorce a woman but a woman couldn't divorce her man. Until relatively recently in the history of marriage, when a woman said "I do", she lost the right to her name, her body, her property

and access to the law. If the Church claims mar-

riage is an "honourable estate instituted by God" then what does that state of affairs say about the God who instituted it? That He was the same jolly fella who thought up slavery? It would be less offensive to free marriage of the burden of sacramental status and recognise it as an evolving institution that changes over time to meet the challenges and demands of the day.

If the Church were prepared to think of marriage in a more ordinary way it would be better equipped to engage in the reevaluation of marriage necessary for it to flourish in the coming century.

FAITH & REASON

JO IND

Are Charles and Camilla now to endure marriage by media as did the blind-date couple in Birmingham - or is the eve of a new millennium the right moment to re-evaluate the institution?

Greg and Carla's wedding was tacky of course, but aren't many weddings a chance to display tack in all its grossness? I don't find a pair of wedding rings inscribed BRMB 96.4FM much more distasteful than videoed vows, soft-focus photography and bridesmaids dressed up like blobs of blancmange. And just because it was a media event for BRMB it doesn't mean it was a publicity stunt for Greg and Carla. It's possible they were only in it for their 15 minutes of fame, but we don't know that. They might have been taking their vows as seriously as people who marry "because they love each other". Time will tell.

The remarkable aspect of the blind-date wedding was the conversations it sparked off in pubs and wine bars throughout Birmingham. BRMB had organised what it called "objective" means to find the most compatible couple - questionnaires, interviews, a group dynamics session, psychometric tests, lie detector tests, interviews with friends and family and horoscope analysis by Russell Grant.

All this got Caucasian Brummies thinking the unthinkable, namely that romance might not be the best basis for marriage after all. Perhaps, you could overhear them saying. there was more to the Asian culture of arranged marriages than they had previously assumed. When Central News conducted a phone-in poll, 54 per cent of its 8,000 callers said Greg and Carla had done the

right thing.
The blind-date wedding was not making a mockery or marriage. It was making a mockery of romance. It was challenging the idea that chemistry and the giddy feeling that "you can't live without someone" are what marriage is about. It was saying ya-boo to the myth begun by the troubadours at the start of the millennium - namely that the overwhelming, all-encompassing emotion we call being "in" love is "true" love.

Today it's very useful for Westerners to separate marriage from romance. Too many of us marry because we fall in love, have affairs because we fall in love with someone else and divorce because we don't love each other any more. Perhaps if Prince Charles had been able to explain to his bride and to the nation that his was a dynastic rather than romantic liaison their marriage might have stood a better chance. It was our insatiable desire for romance that got in the way.

As we reach the end of the romantic millennium we need to rethink marriage just as we needed to in centuries before. The Church could use its considerable resources to help to do that and make the new millennium one of pragmatism and of commitment

GAZETTE

Patrick Heron, painter, 79;

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. TOMOR-ROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS Births, Adoptions, Marriages Booths, Memorial services, adding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Sir Herbert Ashworth, former chairman, Nationwide Building Society, 89; Mr Jack Bowman, former Chief Constable, Tayside, 68; Sir Frederick Catherwood, former MEP, 74; Sir John Clerk of Penicuik Bt, former Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian, 82; Mr Phil Collins, musician, actor and singer, 48; Miss Christina Foyle, bookseller, 88; Sir Robert Gatebouse, former High Court judge, 75; Mr Gene Hackman, actor, 67; Mr Lynn Harrell, former Principal, Royal College of Music, 55; Miss Amanda Harris, actress, 36; Mr

Professor Christopher Howes, Second Commissioner and chief executive of the Crown Estate, 57; The Earl of Huntingdon, racing trainer, 51; Mr Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan, 60; Lord Mackay of Drumadoon QC, 53; Sir Charles Mantell, High Court judge, 62; Professor Stan Mason, former Vice-Chancellor. Glasgow Caledonian University, 65; Mr Mitch Murray, song composer and producer, 59: Mr Hal Prince, theatrical director and producer, 71; Miss Victoria Principal, actress, 49; Mr John Profumo, President, Toynbee Hall, 84; Miss Vanessa Redgrave,

etts, show jumper, 49; Sir Colin Rimer, High Court judge, 55; Mr Boris Spassky, chess champion, 61; Mr Martin Taylor, former vicechairman, Hanson plc, 64. TOMORROW: Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, 61; Mr Peter Allen, radio presenter, 53; Professor Sir Eric Ash, former Rector, Imperial College of Science, 71; Sir Michael Astill, High Court judge, 61; Miss Presiley Baxendale QC, 48; Mr George Benjamin, composer, 39; Miss Carol Channing, actress and singer, 78; Mr Christopher Chataway, former chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, 68; Mr Robert

actress, 62; Mr Derek Rick-

Sir John Hobhouse, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 67; Air Marshal Sir Richard Kemball, 60: Mr Norman Mailer, novelist. 76: Mr Phil Manzanera, guitarist, 48; Mr Patrick Morgan, counsellor and deputy head of post, Abu Dhabi, 55: Miss Rosanne Musgrave, Headmistress. Blackheath High School, 47: Miss Suzanne Pleshette, actress, 62; Miss Jean Simmons, actress, 70; Sir Michael Wilford, former ambassador to Japan, 77.

Clatworthy, sculptor, 71; Mr

William Crosbie, artist, 83;

Lennox, former ambassador

to Spain, 68; Dame Brenda

Hale, High Court judge, 54;

Lord Nicholas Gordon

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 [24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011] or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number. Roberto Benigni is Italy's favourite funny film guy. And he thinks there's humour to be found in concentration camps. By Geoffrey Macnab

kisses in liberal fashion. The effervescent writerdirector-comedian, a household name in his native Italy, stands perched on the edge of international stardom thanks to his new movie, Life is Beautiful. He is so excited by the prospect that he is ready to plant his lips on anything that catches his eye. He was even recently caught embracing his ferocious American distributor, Harvey Weinstein. "I love to kiss women and men," he explains. "And animals. Also vegetables... and I kiss trees too!"

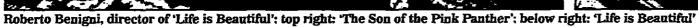
You may have spotted Benigni behind the wheel in Jim Jarmusch's Night on Earth the played a motor-mouthed Roman taxi driver with an unholy passion for sheep) or as the eccentric convict in Jarmusch's Down By Low. You may have seen his Peter Sellers pastiche as a young Clouseau in The Son of the Pink Panther. In Life is Beautiful, his trademark exuberance is only slightly dampened by the grim nature of the story. He stars as a Jewish-Italian waiter thrown into a Nazi death camp along with his young son Giosue (the Jackie Coogan-like newcomer, Giorgio Cantarini).

Benigni has worked with children before. Back in 1979, he appeared alongside a small army of four-year-olds in Marco Ferreri's Chiedo Asilo, an anarchic film about a kindergarten teacher and his unruly charges. Ferreri, the director of La Grand Bouffe, is best known for his obsession with food and sex. Benigni remembers: "Before each take, he'd mumble a few instructions. He'd say to me, 'Roberto, explain to them in their own language that the world is a horrifying thing; that we're all here to suffer. Tell them also that it can be wonderful too." Benigni would oblige. Then Ferreri would yell ACTION! and the 50 or so kids would run amok.

Although Life is Beautiful was made in a very different style ("I completely prepared everything - there was nothing down to improvisation"), Benigni acknowledges Ferreri's influence. It was through Ferreri that he met Primo Levi. "His books changed my life," Benigni says of the great Italian writer and concentration camp survivor. "I was not the same after I had read them."

Whereas Levi chronicled his experience of Auschwitz in If This Is A Man in solemn. heart-rending detail, Benigni's movie opts for Chaplin-style slapstick and verbal gags. Guido, the quick-witted Jewish waiter, is forever posing trick questions to his tayourite customer, Dr Lessing, "I like riddles." says Benigni, reminiscing about how he and Umberto Eco used to send each other jokes and word games through the a Nazi. "That happened in real life - norpost.) The rub comes later on when the doctor tells him a story about a duckling. By forced to join the SS. They'd try to hide the then. Guido and his young son are inmates reality, otherwise their brains would ex-





is the camp doctor. "It's a very dramatic thing - in this case, [it was] the riddles." Benigni was inspired to write the character of Lessing in this way by Primo Levi's recollections about meeting a Nazi

> experience. He pulls faces and puts on funny voices. He tries to make you laugh.

in Nazi genocide, his features cloud over was a crazy man, like a dead man. He was as if this is the most difficult puzzle of all. The answer lies at least partly in his own background. Benigni's father was a It comes as a bolt from the blue to see chemist. Levi, a chemist himself, had Catholic farmer, "a very simple man who and his sisters were told terrifying stories Lessing the humane, cultivated figure from tried to engage the Nazi in conversation. didn't know anything about the war", who about life in the camp. Their father was the first half of the movie, transformed into "but the Nazi chemist was talking only for- was sent off to serve as a soldier in the Ital- traumatised by his memories, but huian army in Albania. After the Italian mour was his therapy. There were some Interviewing Benigni is a disconcerting Armistice of September 1943, he was ar-funny things too. And when he was able to and having met him, I don't think he rested by the Nazis and spent two years smile, he stopped having nightmares." in a labour camp. "And when he came back, in the Nazi concentration camp. Lessing plode... to hide themselves behind some- Then, when you ask where the comedy is he was a skeleton. He weighed 35 kilos. He enough, like a latter-day Mack Sennett two- 'Life is Beautiful' opens on 12 Feb

an obsessive." Benigni wasn't himseif born until 1952. Nevertheless, throughout his childhood, he

Life is Beautiful begins cheerily

reeler. The mood changes when Guido and his family are arrested by the Nazis but, even in the camp, the wisecracking continues. Guido tries to convince his son that they're on some sort of extended adventure holiday and that if he plays by the rules, he'll win a special prize of a tank. The sheer whimsy seems incongruous given the surroundings. Benigni, though, denies that making jokes about concentration camp inmates is in bad taste. "I'm not pulling someone's leg or mocking. When you think about St Francis, he laughed in front of someone who was dying, but he did so in a very light and wonderful way. He was trying to make the man happy before he died. This is another kind of humour." Nor, Benigni insists, does Life is Beou-

tiful trivialise its subject matter. He points to its reception in Israel, at the Jerusalem Festival (where it won four awards), as some sort of vindication. "I don't know if silence can have a quality, but the quality of the silence during that screening was unbearable for me," he says. "I remember there was one minute of silence at the end, which seems like an infinitely long time, and then they started applauding.

In Italy, too, the film has been well received despite initial misgivings. "Audiences went to watch the movie with curiosity and concern, asking why I was touching on such a strong subject. but it has been my biggest success." There was one newspaper which dedicated an entire issue to criticising him. "I respect their point of view, but when they say the film is fascistic, I don't know what they're talking about." Benigni's friend Umberto Eco saw the

movie twice. Although suspicious about the premise, he was soon carried away by the sheer brio of the storytelling. Time magazine's Richard Schickel was less enthusiastic. In a hostile review, he argued that "turning even a small corner of this century's central horror into feel-good popular entertainment is abhorrent. Sentimentality is a kind of fascism too, robbing us of judgement and moral acuity, and it needs to be resisted." Other critics have suggested that the film is well-meaning but hugely naive. Benigni counters them, claiming that nobody has a monopoly on the Holocaust. "It was a tragedy so inexpressible that it belongs to everybody... it belongs to me too." In the meantime, the film continues to pick up awards at festivals and to break box-office records, a sure sign, Benigni believes, of its universality

of appeal. Primo Levi committed suicide in 1987, still seemingly unable to exorcise the memory of the camps. What would he have made of Life is Beautiful? It's not a question which Benigni will even dare to answer. "But having read his interviews, his books would have been against it."

Happy Birthday Mozart, from Dittersdorf and Pergolesi

concert sounds like a dull adventure. So why not give the opposition a chance? Or ,more especially, those and Hyacinthus. Since then, the Mozart's genius?

Such logic partly inspired the Classical Opera Company's appearance at the Royal College of Music's Britten Theatre on the eve of the birthday, in an event that featured music by Dittersdorf and

summer, the ensemble gave their operatic debut with his early Apollo whose feeble light was dimmed by theatre's become something of a home to this young, aspiring orchestra. Their authentic timbre of gut strings and reedy woodwind sounds well in its dry yet not unkind acoustic. So too, on Tuesday, did the voice of the actor Greg Wise, noted

moment. He is asking Guido to solve an

enigma about a duckling, but the enigma

is really about his life, which is in danger."

WITH MOZART'S music being played Pergolesi, as well as by Mozart and Sensibility, and here reading daily all over the world, a birthday himself. In the same venue last excerpts from the late Ted Hughes's Tales from Ovid.

The first half's theme also took a mythical turn, with a Dittersdorf symphony, The Four Ages of Man, preceding a Pergolesi cantata, Orfeo, before it came to a quietly resounding end with the soprano Mary Plazas' account of the Mozart concert aria. "Ah, lo previdi". Granted, the band could just as as Willoughby in the film of Sense well have unearthed some MozartCLASSICAL CLASSICAL OPERA COMPANY

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC LONDON

these other works both refreshed the charting in firm melodic lines the ear and pointed a moral; banality

view of the golden days of classical music may be as simplistic as the Ovidian ages of gold, silver, bronze and iron that Dittersdorf depicted. Iron proved of special interest; braying trumpets recalled high-energy Beethoven, but without a theme in

sight. Pre-classical minimalism? The cantata Orfeo, by contrast, ian rarities. But the contrast of was accomplished and cute, Plazas tale of the songster from Thrace. touches every age, and our standard Now almost forgotten save for his

"Miserere", Pergolesi, who died even younger than Mozart, yet much more famous, was suavely talented; but his ideas scarcely compared with the closing aria, a consoling oboe lulled the voice to an acceptance of grief above a plucked accompaniment that bore the imperishable

Mozart hallmark Likewise the Jupiter Symphony, the single item in the second half. The conductor Ian Page's thought-

ful tempi made for a brisk yet never breathless first movement, and an andante relaxing at a speed that also gave point to the main theme's those of "Ah, lo previdi," where, in significant silences. Throughout, a semi-chorus of burbling oboes and bassoons was a strata of in-built comedy. That miraculous finale moved in every sense, propelled by the skill of these players and the kind of invention that placed the birthday hero way ahead of any rivals

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

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Root and branch upheaval

THEATRE THE FOREST

LYTTLETON THEATRE RNT, LONDON

WITH THAT long, equine face of hers, Frances de la Tour is wonderfully adept at suggesting how a fastidious horse might react in the vicinity of a particularly noisome drain. It's a talent that comes in mighty handy in Anthony Page's very funny if a touch too leisurely - pro-duction of Alexander Ostrovsky's 1870 comedy The Forest. The piece is revived now in a robust and sparky adaptation by the Russian dramatist's 20th-century Anglo-Saxon counterpart, Alan Ayckbourn.

Toting around her cashbox as though it were an extra limb. Ms de la Tour plays Raisa, a tightfisted fiftysomething widow and wealthy landowner. The action the emancipation of the serfs and Raisa's strategy for coping with this social cataclysm is to be even more tyrannical. De la Tour deliciously signals the skinflint selfishness under the widow's pose of misty-eyed philanthropy and the queasy distaste beneath her beamingly

gracious social permissiveness. All arch smouldering and ludicrous girlish flutter, Raisa has fallen in love with a young man half her age (David Bark-Jones), whose favour she sets out to buy.

This involves selling off strips of her forest to Vosmibratov (brawny, boorish Peter Gowen), a serf turned rich wood merchant and the kind of man she would not have allowed into the house a decade earlier. It also entails effectively disinheriting her two dependants: Niamh Linehan's stroppily miserable Aksyusha, a live-in niece whom she treats as a tiresome charity case, and Gennadiy, a long-lost nephew. The arrival of the latter - itinerant ham tragedian with a diminutive comic sidekick in tow - turns the place and its values upside-down, causing the disruption you'd get if you let takes place just nine years after Don Quixote and Sancho Panza

loose in a play by Chekhov. The Forest gave rise to a landmark Expressionist staging by Meyerhold in 1924. Page's production limits itself to one symbolic touch: betokening the terminal decline of the country gentry, the woodwork in the outdoor scenes



Frances de la Tour and David Bark-Jones in 'The Forest'

fully heightened naturalism. In Powell, Michael Williams is a

appears to have been attacked a performance that recalls the by voracious termites. Else- old northern comic, Sandy where, the style is one of zest- "Can you hear me, mother?"

delight as the little put-upon ragamuffin actor, hilariously excruciated when his partner's repeated grandiloquent gestures of generosity do them out of the wads of money he so desperately craves. But Michael Feast's Gennadiy lets you see that there is genuine kindness under the tragedian's highflown romantic attitude. This is a rare play where thespians stand for sincerity and "real" people, epitomised by de la

Tour's Raisa, for shabby falsity. There's a lovely sequence where Gennadiy hurls denunciations from King Lear at Vosmibratov, who has just pompously savoured swindling Raisa out of several thousand roubles. It's typical of the play's wit that these Lear-like posturings don't exactly shame the ex-seri but sting him into a sort of theatrical competitiveness. He proceeds to do "the honourable thing" in an equally histrionic way.

An attractive drama, and much more than just a dry run for Chekhov's Cherry Orchard. PAUL TAYLOR

A version of this review appeared in the later editions of yesterday's paper

المكناب الدمل

EXIT POLL

THE VAGINA

MONOLOGUES

THE KING'S HEAD LONDON

You could tell the audience really liked her, she is so natural and talks directly and openly. She confronts the reality of the experiences women have."

about a woman from a Bosniar

TANYA CHARAF

women very well. I think it's highly astute. And it was hilarious; it

cracked me up.

NIGEL McBRIDE

"I enjoyed it very much. I liked the

way it managed to be serious as well as funny.

And I was very moved, especial by the monology

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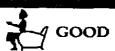
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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

CRITICAL VIEW

BY FIONA STURGES

EXCELLENT







DEADLY

OUR VIEW

OVERVIEW



Joseph Fiennes one Gwyneth Paltrow star in John Madden's costume drama, scripted by Tom Stoppard, in which the young Will Shakespear suffers writer's block. young Will Shakespeare

"It almost defies you not to have fun," remarked Anthony Quinn. "The film's satirical playfulness will certainly give audiences a lift, though what will raise the roof is the more obvious dazzle of its two leads," "Sparkling with wit and wonderful performances," exclaimed the Daily Mail. while the Evening Standard confessed: "I

was entirely seduced... literate, sensual, accessible. light-hearted, even giddyheaded. A part-work that's all of a piece." "Vintage Stoppard," cried The Times, while The Express deemed it "the very definition of irreverence". "Movie-biz satire thinly disguised in Elizabethan fustian." demurred The Guardian.

Shakespeare in Lave bears all the hallmarks of a winning costume drama and wears its frivolity on its sleeve. Backed by Stoppard's witty. intelligent script, this satire cannot fall to entertain.

Shakespeare In Love is out on nationwide release, certificate 15. 123 minutes.

ON VIEW

THE DANCE PINA BAUSCH

THE EXHIBITION PORTRAITS BY INGRES

THE BOOK A LIFE OF RUDYARD KIPLING



After a 17-year absence from London, the German choreographer Pina Bausch brings her Tanztheater Wuppertal company to Sadier's Wells, to perform her 1986 work, Viktor.

An exhibition of portraits

by the French draughtsman

Jean-Auguste-Dominique In-

gres at the National Gallery,

which includes the celebrat-

ed Madame Moltessier

Seated.

Bausch's genius is for assembling the varied material, manipulating its contrasts of speed, mood or genre, and shaping it so that gradually you see the pattern beneath," revealed John Percival. "A wild grab-bag of incidents, ranging from the predictable and dull to the haunting and fiercely comic," opined the Financial Times, while The Times

"There's a consciousness that a clothed body

is a naked body touched all over. These are

portraits in which at every point, intimacy oc-

curs," noted Tom Lubbock, concluding: "ab-

solutely enthralling". The Spectator declared it

"a splendid and unmissable exhibition", while

The Times found "a curious blend of antiquity

and modernity". "Portraits don't get more pri-

cautioned: "Get sucked into Bausch's universe and you will be hooked for hours: lose it and you will suffer interminable boredom." "A gorgeous nearly-dance to the cruel march and music of time," enthused the Daily Mail. "More walk-theatre than dance theatre, with some choice specimens on offer," wrote the Daily Telegraph.

mal than Monsieur Bertin," insisted the New

Statesman, while the Evening Standard hy-

perbolised, "Ingres" eye served him well in the

astonishing blend of bravura. flattery and the

solid-pudding worth that was his portraiture."

"A truly superb compilation by one of the

world's greatest portraitists," gushed the

but the Financial Times had reservations,

deeming it "impressive, interesting, enter-

taining. But it does not engage." "Although

this fine production finds plenty of dark. Or

tonesque laughter in the play, it is a harsh

grotesque and self-consciously theatrical."

piece." wrote The Times. "A little too

grumbled the Evening Standard.

Sunday Telegroph.

By turns solemn and comic. Pina Bausch's singular arrange ments will at once disturb and delight, though devotees of traditional choreography might find "dance" thin on the ground.

As well as reflecting 19th-cen-

tury bourgeois opulence, these

astonishing images reveal In-

gres as an insatiable lover of

Davies' production of Gorky's

play brims with unsettling

dangers of work becoming

black comedy about the

an end in itself, and

performances from

boasts strong

the entire cast.

human flesh and re-

painter's reputation

as a chilly idealist.

pudiates the

Tonight's is the final performance of Pina Bausch's Viktor at Sadler's Wells Theatre For enquires call 0171-314 8800.

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enquiries call

about a woman from a Boshian rape camp. It was extraordinary in its diversity of subjects. In some sense she managed a very complex subject very cleverly, and I think that has a lot to do with the tone." PAM PERRY 20, student London "It was great. I

really enjoyed the way she told her stories through characters. It ılly as so

many of the monologues were te extraordinary. It is interes to see how gender is treated in the theatre, and why this has been so successful."

MICHAEL EARLEY. 40. publishe What was nice is

it was graphic without being gross. In a proper context, the subject is enjoyable and refreshing. The women in the audience certainly seemed to love it. She is not a feminist by any means. She sets things up without making you feel uncomfortable, and she combines

a good mix of storytelling rhythm and stand-up riffs."

Sheila Hancock is the eponymous matriarch in Howard Davies' staging of the 1906 version of Gorky's play about a family torn apart by bourgeois

Biographer Harry Rick-

Rudyard Kipling's child-

hood, sexuality and pro-

relationship between

fessional life in The

Unforgiving Minute.

etts looks at the complex

"A savagely funny, if rather under-powered, production in which Hancock bags another monstrous matriarch," noted Paul Taylor. "Some amazing performances alongside the still, sly, gravitas of Miss Hancock with her cackling last laugh," gushed the Daily Mail. The Daily Telegraph was delighted: "The Almeida has once again hit winning form,"

"Ricketts' straightforward biography provides a clear line through Kipling's morass of mental suffering... he is one of the great underrated figures in literature, and Ricketts' work will play its part in keeping him in the foreground," decided Frank McLynn, "Ricketts narrates readably enough... However, he short-changes the reader when it comes

to analysis and criticism of the writings; most of the books get a few skimpy paragraphs," carped the Sunday Times. "Never has a writer been so admired, and then so reviled, by his peers. This biography makes i possible to trace what went wrong," announced the Daily Mail. "Serviceable," stated Time Out.

Ricketts' straightforward biography provides a comprehensive and valuable account of Kipling's childhood traumas and quick rise to fame, but is short on literary analysis.

The Unforgiving Minute: A Life Of Rudyard Kipling by Harry Ricketts (Charto & Windus) is currently available in bookshops

What the camera didn't hear

THE ROOM is filled with the sound German market. Each photograph of a wave as it crashes on a seashore has been given an incongruous and then, seemingly, rolls itself back sound caption, such as "The Sounds and crashes again, and again, and of Footsteps in the City" or "The again. Then there's laughter and a low rumble of applause which quickly gathers momentum. A group of German boy scouts are pictured in a soundtrack which bounces around campsite, tucking into the contents the gallery walls. of their billycans, one turning to stare quizzically out at the viewer. William Furiong's latest audio-visual work to show in London is, at the very

least, spatially disorientating. The images, taken in the late Twenties and early Thirties, are of a group of Wandervogel, a German outh movement and were printed which Furlong came across in a air is filled with invisible bees. The sent. It is all about what happened

Sounds of the City at Night", all of which have been recorded and thrown together in an accompanying

emit a cacophony. Bells peal out from one speaker to be echoed from another: a train passes; restaurant chatter burbles away in the corner; birds chirrup; a siren wails; someone coughs; silence descends; or is that the sound of an empty room? A bee begins to buzz, first from one speaker up from a box of glass plate negatives and then several, and suddenly the

Visual Arts

WILLIAM FURLONG IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM LONDON

cocktail of disparate sounds conjures up a clash of associated images and leaves the head spinning.

long has chosen familiar sounds to both the Twenties and Thirties and now, as a means of linking the past with the present, "The sounds I recorded are those that surround us all the time in the way that ambient sounds do. They are the sort of sounds that would have been around then and pull the images into the pre-

next with these images and people." The photographs are clearly the work of an amateur photographer, at times out of focus or sporting a way-

ward finger over part of the lens, but the end results are atmospheric and an evocative historical record of the mantic light: this is an idyllic pastoral with the land - a visual aesthetic appear more than a little apt. which artists were later encouraged to reproduce under the Third Reich.

Youth groups were numerous and popular in Germany between the wars, but all of them were eventually channelled into the Hitler Youth movement in 1939, when member-

ship of that group was made compulsory. And while the peacetime pictures shown here capture an innocent enjoyment of outdoor life, it is impossible for them not to call to mind future events.

And on leaving the gallery, head German youth movement in the still reeling from the barrage of disinter-war years. The activities of the cordant sounds and images, the Sec-great outdoors are presented in a ro-German Focke-Wulf suspended from existence where everybody is at one the roof of the Imperial War Museum. KATE MIKHAIL

> William Furlong An Imagery of Absence', the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (0171-416 5000), until 28 February, Entrance to the museum, £5 (adults)

ARTS DIARY

DAVID LISTER

SIR CAMERON Mackintosh has been obsessed with getting the musical Martin Guerre right for rather a long time. Now that the show has finally pleased the critics in its West Yorkshire Playhouse incarnation, the impresario can look to producing a new Wednesday's party for the transfer of Oklahoma! to the Lyceum, said he had finally found his next show. It will be a musical of John Updike's novel The Witches of Eastwick, with lyrics by John Dempsey and Dana P Rowe, who were responsible for The Fix at the Donmar Warehouse. And it could open in London by the end of this year. Neither director nor cast has yet been chosen. Perhaps Sir Cameron

should go for Sir Cliff Richard (right). He looked in need of cheering up at that same Oklahoma! party when a journalist asked him whether he had seen the musical when it first opened. Sir Cliff spluttered into his mineral water as he pointed out that Oklahoma! opened in 1943, when he was

WRITING ABOUT the Barbican Centre's rejected lottery application earlier this

three years old.

week, I asked the Arts Council why it had been turned down. I was told: "It is our policy never to reveal our reasons for rejecting an application." Why not, for goodness' sake? Why should members of the public not be told why their local arts venue or a national arts venue years ministers have been telling the Arts Council to be more accountable, with little effect. The Culture Secretary Chris Smith belongs to a party committed to open government. He could prove it by making this publicly funded quango take the public into its

onfidence. MARCO GOLDSCHMTED, the managing director of the

Richard Rogers partnership, is one of the front-runners for the presidency of the Royal Institute of British Architects. In his manifesto he says he wants the country's planning laws changed so that architects are always consulted by local planning committees. It is a manifesto commitment he can make with some confidence. By lucky coincidence, Lord Rogers has been bending the ear of the **Deputy Prime Minister** John Prescott on exactly recently to show him how the

this matter, accompanying him on a trip to Holland > system works there.

From high heels to highbrow

HOW CAN you tell art from pornography? How indeed when you are at New York's Show World, the Times Square porn emporium, and you are watching Breadman, a short film about a man with a basket of actual bread. The film is part of Firewater Festival, a non-X-rated brief films selection that plays at Show World four nights a week.

establishments out of the centre of ering lights. The video monitor Manhattan but, due to a loophole, Pp shows like Show World as well as adult video emporia have stayed in business. As long as they maintain the required 60 per cent non-adult entertainment, the sleaze factories stay legal in Manhattan.

It's easy to suspect the city's new prudishness as stemming from the real-estate interests of Disney and

others, rather than a surge of moralism. And it's just as easy to suspect Show World's new taste for the art of virgin film directors as a painless way to cheat on the new laws.

In order to get to the fest, one must walk up the stairs marked Big Top, past signs declaring No Live Girls. I wind up alone in a room like a lacquered jewellery box - mir-Last year, the city tried to zone sex rored, black and red walls - and flickplays Angelmaker, an earnest quickie featuring a girl in pioneer costumery running through a foggy glade. Another young woman walks into the theatre. We eye each other suspiciously. "Are you from Show World?" she asks.

"No. Are you?" I reply. It turns out she's scouting short films for a company. She says she's

nice tone of relaxed

explanations were not

overawing or tedious.

factuality for the reading so

that the required technical

have been one step ahead

of the people who live with

it, and 100 years ago the

seemed quite baffling.

was first laid out in

America, few people

laws of physics must have

When the telegraph system

understood how it worked.

One farmer even decided

that it must be a failure

because he never heard

any dispatches going up

Years later, after the

Mark Lamarr sat in a

invention of wireless radio,

the line.

Science seems always to

NEW YORK DIARY



ALISSA QUART

also starting a "Big Apple" dating service. This singular scene is of a piece with the story of how Firewa-31-year-old screenwriter/festival co-

founder, ventured into the strip whether people masturbate while joints after the Supreme Court voted to uphold Mayor Giuliani's new antiporn zoning laws. "I had worked on Screw, a magazine which reads as short films before, but they never got shown," says Burnell. "I saw an op- pang when he passes Times portunity with this summer's ruling against the theatres." Of course, the festival's setting is its hook - its seedy atmosphere gives it a hipster credibility. Burnell says that one of the favoured activities before or after watching the Firewater films is to go into the strippers' changing rooms and have a chortle at the legends on the wall. The favourite one reads, "Every dancer must wear high heels or boots".

Not everyone gets the joke. "A very highbrow TV channel that ter came to be. Dana Burnell, the will go nameless interviewed us, asking us over and over again

watching the shorts," winces Burnell. Ivan Lerner, executive editor of its name suggests, says he feels a Square's sex accessories shops that were once filled with "whips and chains and dildos" and are now full of "ugly luggage and toasters". But Lerner sees the upside of the curious new arrangements of Manhattan's sex businesses. "I think the short films and the Kung Fu films they show now at Peepland are quite wonderful," he says. "And I think it's good that Show World is playing the movies because New York's venues for revival films have all closed down. Porno and art have both been ghettoised by the Mick-

ey Mouse monolith."

IF YOU happened to be a Carthusian monk in 18thcentury France, you were probably best advised to steer clear of the Abbé Jean Nollet. Otherwise you were likely to get involved in one of his experiments. Unfortunately for the monastic brethren, their Abbe had a scientific bent, and a particular interest in electricity. In 1746, he lined up 200 monks, joined them together with wire, and connected them to a crude battery. This human chain extended for almost a mile. yet the current coursed easily from one end to the

distances. So began this week's serial on Radio 4. The Victorian Internet by Tom

other. As the men jerked

and convulsed, Nollet

concluded that electric

transmitted over long

signals could be

Standage tells the story of the electric telegraph, and THE WEEK its eventual worldwide development by Samuel IN RADIO Morse and other pioneers. David Rintoul provided a



MAGNUS MILLS

studio with a big pile of records. Rock'n'roll is something else that resulted from noises being sent along wires, and if the genre is to survive its enforced leap from Radio to Radio 2, then it needs someone like Lamarr to make sure it arrives safely.

including a 1947 version of the Jackie Brenston classic. "Rocket 88". If you ain't got a Cadillac, you could always try a motor-scooter instead. This was the form of transport encountered by Henry VIII in Corridors of Light and

announcing the one great

truth: "Elvis is still dead."

ground so well-prepared

during the past four weeks

by Frank Skinner's In the

Days before Rock'n'Roll.

This week he delved deep

and came up with several

songs about Cadillacs,

Lamarr takes over the

Shadow (Radio 3, Sunday). Actually, he was looking for a horse, or maybe a mother, for his unborn son. He didn't seem to have made his mind up yet. Instead, he wandered around an Italian He opened his new Renaissance city disguised series Shake, Rattle and as a musician and plagued by this bloke on a Vespa. Roll (Radio 2, Monday) by

All very mysterious. If the young king really did once make a furtive visit to Mantua, as this programme suggested, then he was surely tempted by the late Duke's widow. Isabella d'Este. Set against a background of very modern noises, the regal pair went sightseeing together, and she seemed to drop a few hints. She pointed out frescoes where English royal livery lay entwined with Gonzagan marigolds. "Apollo wears a short skirt and leans forward," she observed. "He wears nothing underneath." This undoubtedly made Henry go all hot and sweaty, and

when she led him into her secret garden he probably thought his luck was in. Trouble was, he was already married and she was having none of it.

The confessed the conding





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Journeys across the border

Julia Blackburn takes literature to a land where fact and fancy mix. Sara Wheeler tracks her down

s it a novel? Is it a travel book? Is it a biography? You're never quite sure with a book by Julia Blackburn. This seems, to the author, to be a perfectly natural state of affairs.
"My whole life blurs the boundaries between fact and fiction," she says. "Categories are irrelevant".

Blackburn's career took off in 1994 when she published Daisy Bates in the Desert, a rich stew of travel writing, memoir and biography swirling round the eponymous Daisy, a feisty Irish fantasist who knocked about in the Australian bush in the first half of the century. Daisy reaped a bountiful harvest of reviews, a quantity of foreign rights sales and a loyal following.

For the book before that, The Emperor's Last Island, Blackburn travelled to St Helena in search of Napoleon. Her interest was piqued, she claims, when she saw the great man's pickled testicles displayed in a museum in southern France. In the book, Napoleon's story unfurls like a sail as Blackburn's ship steams towards his island.

Given her refusal to be pinned down by fact or fiction, it's not surprising that she has set her new book in the medieval period. She was attracted to the way it fails to separate the real world from that of the imagination. Saints walk on and off the pages of The Leper's Companions (Jonathan Cape, £14.99) without anyone turning a hair, and miracles happen alongside acts of horrid brutality.

The book - Blackburn's second novel follows a small band of medieval pilgrims from a Norfolk village to Jerusalem. The group are joined by a shadowy narrator who has dropped in from the modern era. Blackburn is much taken with this notion of the elasticity of time. "Everything kept reminding him of something else," she writes, "the elements deceptive and the past breaking through into the present while the present sank back into the past".

Writing is in the family; her father was a poet. Thomas Blackburn separated from Julia's painter mother when their only child was 12. As he drank a lot and took amphetamines, it was a wild kind of childhood. But Julia was clearly fond of her dad, who died in 1977. She recently edited a selection of his poems, For a Child, which the Warwick-based Greville Press is bringing out this month.

The title poem, written for Julia, begins "And have I put upon your shoulders then. What in myself I have refused to bear". And so it turned out to be. Thomas's daughter has been writing for as long as gether from freelance editing, ghostwriting and copywriting, initially in London and subsequently, after her children were born, in Suffolk. She says she didn't have the confidence to write fiction for many years, and that it never occurred to her that she would be able to earn a living from proper writing. But she does now. She turned 50 last

year, and is published in ten languages. Her Dutch husband and their two children went with her both to St Helena and Australia. The family home is a comfy old house in north Suffolk, a few miles from the sea and a few more from the Norfolk border. There is a large, rambling garden, and a boisterous lurcher called Mink Blackburn blends in with the happy detritus of rural family life - hairy dog baskets, discarded wellies and seashells queuing on the windowsill – and when we go out for a walk she wears an old blue woolly hat. There is a



JULIA BLACKBURN, A BIOGRAPHY

Julia Blackburn was born in London in 1948. She took a degree in English from York University and worked as a freelance writer and editor before devoting herself full time to her books. She has two children, is

divorced and lives in Suffolk. Her six books include Charles Waterton (1989), The Emperor's Last Island (1991), Daisy Bates in the Desert (1994), and two novels: The Book of Colour (1995), which was shortlisted

for the Orange Prize, and The Leper's Companions. She has just edited a volume of her father Thomas Blackburn's poetry, entitled For a Child and published this month by The Greville Press.

touch of the Luddite about her. She still writes her books on a manual typewriter. Critics have compared Blackburn's work with that of Bruce Chatwin, who died ten years ago. It's difficult not to see parallels. subordinate clause. both writers clothing skeletons of fact in the

too, the pair are remarkably similar. Both favour sketchily drawn characters, short books, short chapters and short paragraphs, and both display an aversion to the

Unlike Chatwin, however, who famously began his travel book In Patagonia with to me to make anything up!" ample flesh of their imaginations. In style,

the fiction "in my grandmother's dining room there was a glass-fronted cabinet and in the cabinet a piece of skin," Blackburn never makes anything up in her travel writing. She bridles at the suggestion. "There is nothing invented. It would never occur

But she does admire Chatwin. "Tve got terribly excited reading his books, I have a sense of coming home. I get bogged down with some bits, like the Grand Guignol of The Viceroy of Ouida, but I like the freshness with which he approached each subject. He might be slightly dodgy in some of his fictions and factions, but his integrity in actually writing is without question. It's an honour to be compared to him."

She has none of Chatwin's studied selfawareness, though, and it's simply not possible to imagine myth-makers getting to work on her. For a writer so powerfully drawn to fantasy, Julia Blackburn is reassuringly down to earth. A woman who has to do the school run, buy the dog food and wash the smalls can't be running off to Paris every five minutes to stock up on moleskin notebooks. "I see books very much as companions in the times I am writing them," she says, "so to me they represent stages of my life. They are all part of my antobiography, and I can read myself and things that I was going through in the books."

In the case of The Leper's Companions, she was going through a great deal. Her marriage had come apart. "The story became very literally a way of getting out of the present by going into the past and think-ing about things I couldn't think about directly because they were too close to the surface - and too dangerous, I suppose. By seeing things through the metaphor of a medieval time, I could go through all sorts of adjusting processes."

Then, having completed a first draft, she became very ill. "When I was in hospital going under with the anaesthetic I suddenly thought, I know what's going to happen to the leper! I'd been holding on very tight in my own life, and when I was ill I had to let go. I saw, in hospital, what my connections were with the people I'd been writing about. That was when the book took its pre-sent form and I decided that the narrator should go along with the other characters on the pilgrimage."

She says she never knows where a book is going when she starts it. With The Leper's Companions, as the whole pattern of her life changed, so did the book. It was originally planned as short stories, then the biography of a medieval pilgrim - and it has turned out to be a typically Blackburnian hybrid. "It's quite funny," she says ruefully. That one works flat out for three and half years and at the end of it you have just

Part of her, now, is living at the cusp of the 18th and 19th centuries. She's writing about Gova. During a visit to Madrid at a time when she was "unskinned", she saw his black paintings, learnt that he became stone deaf - and found her next book. Julia Blackburn's writing takes off when she leaves her notes behind and lets her imagination take over. "You get to the end of the research and say, right, now we're ready to begin. It's making the material your own that counts.

Making it your own: this is the key to Julia Blackburn's success. She does it instinctively; other writers have to discover it. Patrick Leigh Fermor once had the ultimate travel writer's disaster, he lost the notebook recording his journey. Yet the book which emerged, he said later, was one

She smiles when I relate this anecdote. "The pleasure of writing," she remarks sagely. "is knowing the material well enough to be able to go without maps."



WITH SIMPSONS - allegedly the inspiration for Are You Being Served? - having closed its doors, there's increasing speculation on the future of Piccadilly bookselling. One rumour has the venerable Hatchards quitting its site down the road to set up shop in the Simpsons building, the other has the Waterstone's name over the door with Hatchards moving to become a "Hatchards at Waterstone's". HMV Media Group, which owns both, is keeping mum. Intriguingly, the prestigious Hatchards site is owned by the Maudsley and Bethlehem Hospital. Could there be an apter metaphor for the madness of British bookselling?

BERYL BAINBRIDGE has yet another chance of making it to the altar. Master Georgie, which many critics agreed should have won the Booker, is shortlisted for the £10,000 W H Smith Literary Award. This time she's up against Alan Bennett, Hilary Spurling, Anthony Beevor, William Boyd and Julian Barnes in another mixed-bag contest. Robert Harris, one of TV's talking heads for Booker night and a Bainbridge supporter, is chairman of the judges.

REMEMBER J R HARTLEY'S long search for his book on fly fishing? Now authors, and indeed the rest of us, can dispense with the Yellow Pages and search on the net. The first online second-hand bookshop has just opened at: www.booklovers.co.uk. Booklovers offers good quality second-hand books in a wide variety of categories. Each title is described and quality-graded, making it possible to "browse" as one would in a real bookshop. Searches can be conducted by author, title or keyword

FRANK HERBERT'S 1965 novel Dune has become a SF classic, selling some 10m worldwide. Now his son Brian Herbert, along with Kevin J Anderson of X-Files fame, is finishing a three-volume happened before Dune opens. The first will come from Hodder this autumn. The trilogy is based on notes left by Herbert, who died in 1976, and on conversations between father and son.

SUBTLE IS not among the words ever applied to PR stunts. On 4 February, customers at Virgin Megastores who buy a copy of Josie Lloyd and Emlyn Rees's collaborative novel Come Together will get a free condom. Meanwhile, its publishers Arrow have just sent journalists a packet of three. Thanks, guys, but it's the unprotected hype we worry about.

THE LITERATOR

The end of Lonely Street

Sky-high on prescribed drugs, he wore a Bureau of Narcotics badge with pride... Charles Shaar Murray asks where it all went wrong for the King

mary of the bizarre trajectory of Elvis Presley's life and career is still Little Richard's. Elvis, opined the Bronze Liberace, "got what he wanted, but he lost what he had". In Last Train To Memphis, the justly-lauded first volume of this monumental biography. Peter Guralnick told the story of how Elvis got what he wanted In Careless Love. we watch Presley losing what he had. As his sly, manipulative manager Colonel Tom Parker once remarked, "When I met Elvis he had a million dollars worth of talent. Now he has a million dollars."

Careless Love picks up in 1958, with the 23-year-old Elvis's induction into the US Army and the death of his beloved mother, Gladys. These were pivotal events: the man was never the same after the bereavement and the artist was never the same after military service. He went in a threat to Western civilisation and came out a middle-American icon; a clean-cut family entertainer specialising in "Bing Crosby pictures".

An exhilarating late-Sixties return to form turned out to be little more than a mirage, and he spent the Seventies degenerating into the bloated incontinent "Fat Elvis" who died in his bathroom, face down in



Careless Love: the unmaking of Elvis Presley by Peter Gurainick

Little, Brown, £19.99, 766pp

a pool of vomit with his gold pyjama bottoms around his swoilen ankles. He had 14 different drugs in his system.

Elvis's position on the subiect of drugs bears an eerie similarity to Bill Clinton's on sex. Elvis believed that having something legally prescribed by a tame doctor classified it as "medicine", as opposed to "drugs", which were for hippies and subversives. The logical conclusion was the grotesque spectacle of Elvis, weighted down with guns and higher than a Branson balloon on the kind of expensive heavy-duty chemicals about which street dopers could only fantasise, boolsheeting his way into Nixon's Oval Office to offer his services as an anti-drug campaigner and blag himself a Bureau of Narcotics badge.

How did it all go so hideously wrong? As his buddy Lamar Fike remarked, "Elvis always kept his own world with him; he kept his bubble." One of his last girlfriends concurs: "Like the boy in the bubble - he was just this guy who had this wonderful charisma and things got blown way out of shape. He was just this innocent little guy."

If anything destroyed Elvis, it was precisely that. He was the first person from his background - redneck, blue-collar, white skin - to experience anything remotely like what happened to him. To maintain his equilibrium he surrounded himself with the posse of obsequious hometown buddies who became known as the Memphis Mafia and who combined with Colonel Parker to isolate him from the outside world. Spiritually deep but intellectually shallow, he had everything money could buy -

but that was all he had. So which Elvis are we talking about? There was the Elvis who endorsed Adlai Stevenson against Eisenhower in the 1956 election; who was - by the standards of his environment quite spectacularly unprejudiced; who was pals with James

who became utterly distraught at the assassination of Dr Martin Luther King, and numbered To Kill A Mockingbird and Dr Strangelove among his favourite movies. Then there was the Elvis who considered J Edgar Hoover the greatest living American; who loved to wear cop uniforms and collect badges; who wanted to invite Khrushchev home to prove that anyone could succeed under capitalism; and who was so hung up about motherhood that he banished his bride from his bed following the birth of their child because he could not bear to have sex with any woman who had given birth.

To put it mildly, this is not a pretty story. Most of the best previous writing about Elvis has been analytical and polemical - much of that, in turn, has been the work of Greil Marcus, notably in Mystery Train and Dead Elvis. Here Guralnick plays it straight. In the preface to Last Train To Memphis, he stated that "if I have succeeded in my aim, I have given the reader the tools to create his or her own portrait of Elvis Presley." He has indeed succeeded - brilliantly and beautifully.

What we are left with, ultimately, is a mesmerising account of America's broken promise writ large.

Forget the author's sensational past as gangster and convict, argues

Danuta Kean, and you will still enjoy a bleakly funny fictional debut

Sentences with an appeal

MEDIA COVERAGE for Jimmy Boyle's first venture into fiction has inevitably concentrated on his notorious past · Gorbals gang leader, convicted killer, "most dangerous prisoner", renowned sculptor and writer - rather than the quality of his work. Boyle's two-part autobiography drew attention to the brutality of Britain's jails in the 1970s and had a significant impact on the campaign for prison reform. So, as far as the British press is concerned, even 15 years after his release, the man may be out of Peterhead but Peterhead remains in the man.

Yet there are parallels between this novel and Boyle's own history that make speculation about its autobiographical content more than lazy journalism. Hero - John Alexander Ferguson, a longterm inmate of the brutal Institution - narrates a story which ranges from cruelty and incontinence to cattle rustling and an audacious heist.

The Institution is a place where two warders, Gorky and Fat Head, goad and rape their charges while Dr Snider, lauded as a pioneering neurosurgeon, forces inmates to sing during lobotomies carried out under local anaesthetic. Like Boyle, Hero's refusal to yield to the regime lands him in trou-



Hero of the Underworld by Jimmy Boyle Serpent's Tail, £8.99, 216pp

ble and he spends long years in solitary confinement, where his belligerent spirit refuses to be cowed. Once free, Hero's underworld is populated by a ragbag of psychotic gangsters. corrupt police, kind-hearted prostitutes and weird former inmates seared by experiences inside. All of these echo the Gorbals gangland described by Boyle in his autobiography.

But it would be a pity if such parallels eclipsed the fact that this is an absorbing, if flawed, first novel, by turns shocking, passionate, uplifting and very funny. It is not another spin on Boyle's own dark secrets, though they have undoubtedly informed his writing (it is hard redeemed by clever character

to believe his own stretch in twists and Boyle's sympathy. solitary was not in mind when the vivid passages about Hero's incarceration were written).

The strengths of the book are its compassion and gallows humour. In Hero, Boyle has created a character whose struggle captures the sympathy of the reader and whose narration has a linguistic authenticity including an at times irritating tendency to slip into cliche. There is genuine pathos in the contrast between Hero's macho defiance during captivity and his utter impotence when released: he cannot control his bowels, let alone his penis. Freedom disempowers him and he longs for the status and security of confinement

Much of the humour is provided by macabre comic setpieces, though Boyle's reliance on bodily functions, cadavers and graveyards leaves him open to the criticism that he has opted for easy laughs. Hero's friends provide the other element of farce. The midget Bonecrusher, who eats pigs' eyeballs as though they were sherbet lemons. Sligo, whose cod Irishness is straight from the set of Ballykissangel, and the tramps Skelly and Warthog are types frequently found in this kind of Grand Guignol world. But the stereotypes are

The novel's chief weakness lies in Boyle's method of writing. It reflects his approach to sculpting, which he describes as "energy". He chooses to attack his medium "blind", chipping away until the character of the stone emerges. This

gives his sculptures a visceral power, a dangerous edge. His approach to writing follows much the same style. The characters emerge from his unconscious, after which he chips away at his word processor until the story arrives. It is an unusual method in an age when plotting has reasserted its primacy and many new novels resemble joined-up screenplays. When it works, it works well, but at times it leads to some sloppy writing in need of the editor's pencil.

Beyond these minor flaws, Hero... provides a vivid fable. replete with redemptive morality and a few belly laughs. As well as a notorious past, Jimmy Boyle can boast an undoubted ability as a storyteller of imagination and power.

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Prophets of a lost paradise

350 years ago today, the English beheaded their anointed king. Tom Paulin uncovers and celebrates the forgotten Republicans

oday's date is given in the Oxford University Diary as the feast of "Charles I. King and Martyr". Until last month, the distinguished scholar and critic David Norbrook was an English tutor at the university but, perhaps exasperated by all those smug dinners with toasts to the Queen, he resigned and emigrated to the republic of the United States. His marvellously original, densely researched study of the English republican imagination and intellect. one should stress) is an attempt to retrieve forgotten figures like the regicide Henry Marten, as well as to extend our understanding of the work of Milton and Marvell.

As Britain moves towards either a republic or a reduced monarchy. Writing the English Republic should help us to understand both the tragedy and the glory of this partly-buried period of English literary history. What Milton called "the ostentatious parade of royalty" may even become a thing of the past. No longer a literary theme park, Britain will be a vigorous new republic which no longer needs (Milton again) "that flatulent cry of the royal blood". But in order to do this a long period of historical amnesia will need to be addressed, and the shades of many ancestors brought back towards what Milton terms the "great palace now of light".

This burying of the past was in its time a civilised process which aimed to heal the wounds left by the two civil wars the English fought in the 1640s. However, as Norbrook points out. Charles's minions - like the previously loyal Cromwellian Sir George Downing, for whom the street is named - hunted down several regicides who were brutally executed. They were half-hanged, their genitals cut off and their intestines burnt in front of them.

Beyond this barbarity, the Act of Indemnity and Oblivion banned "any name or names, or other words of reproach tending to revive the memory of the late differences". Norbrook's study attempts to counter the effects of this erasure. Suppressing the republican element in English culture means that most British citizens have an impoverished idea of their national past.



Writing the English republic: poetry, rhetoric and politics 1627-1660 by David Norbrook

Cambridge University Press, £40, 523pp

To begin the process of educating us as citizens, scholars like Norbrook need to spend years in libraries like the Bodleian (that library bravely hid Milton's books after the Restoration, rather than obey an order to burn them). One of his major discoveries concerns the Roman poet Lucan, whose epic poem Pharsalia, about the civil war between Caesar and Pompey, is central to the English republican imagination.

Virgil and Horace remain strong presences in English poetry, but Lucan's austere republicanism has been lost. Christopher Marlowe's resonant translation of the first book of the Pharsalia was published after his murder, and my hunch is that Milton remembered part of it ("rings of fire/ Fly in the air, and dreadful bearded stars./ And comets that presage the fall of kingdoms") when he dictated these lines about Satan's obscured glory:

as when the sun new risen Looks through the horizontal misty air Shorn of his beams, or from behind the moon In dim eclipse disastrous twilight sheds On half the nations, and with fear of change

Charles II's Licenser of the Press regarded these lines as politically subversive. If he had spotted the parallels between Milton's Satan and Lucan's Caesar, he might also have seen that Paradise Lost celebrates the English republic right from the opening address to the Holy Spirit. Among Norbrook's discoveries is a pamphlet in which a republican theorist echoes the Henry Marten, that forgotten regicide,

opening of Genesis ("the carth was without form and void" to describe the historical situation out of which the English commonwealth was created. God's creation of the universe is analogous both to the emergence of republican England, and the divine inspiration which builds Paradise.

Norbrook is particularly interesting on the way in which political theory derived from Lucan and Machiavelli informs writing during this period. He shows how discord and turbulence were seen as central to the health of a state. Where Virgil and Horace liked to sing of concord, Lucan describes both the Roman state and the cosmos as an unstable, discordant mechanism. Where royalists believed in beauty, concord, unity, puritan republicans believed in sublimity, free speech and a turbulent iconoclasm.

This battle, both political and aesthetic, informs a sermon by William Laud which is another of Norbrook's compelling discoveries. Laud, who became Archbishop of Canterbury and died on the scaffold like his master Charles I, was at this time Bishop of London. On 17 March 1628, he gave a sermon at the opening of parliament which alludes to Caesar's overthrow of Pompey and the Emperor Frederick's triumph over Saladin. By analogy, Caesar and the last important medieval Holy Roman Emperor are Charles I, while Pompey and Saladin are those puritan members of parliament who 17 years later would convict Laud of treason and cut off his head. As Norbrook states, Laud's sermon "publicly and provocatively aligned the Anglican church with the goal of crushing republican liberty.

One of the triumphs of Norbrook's historical method of reading literary texts is the close attention he pays to particular words and lines of verse. Thus Marvell, at the start of the "Horatian Ode on Cromwell's Return from Ireland", uses the word "now" three times:

The forward youth that would appea Must now forsake the muses dear And now the Irish are ashamed The Pict no shelter now shall find

As Norbrook shows, this use of "now" is linked to Sir Peter Lely's portrait of



Charles I bids farewell to his children just before his execution

which has the word NOW inscribed on it. The word is a Machiavellian injunction to decisive action, "to seize the occasion, perhaps linked with regicide". Although Marvell compares Charles I to Caesar in the "Horatian Ode", he famously ends the poem by warning that the same - i.e. military - arts that "did gain/ A power, must it maintain". Cromwell, he implies, may yet

become Caesar himself. Milton, it may be, shared a similar reservation. He both eulogises Cromwell in his hugely eloquent and heroic pamphlet "Second Defence of the People of England", and warns him not to "invade that liberty which you have defended". Arguing that Cromwell ought not to assume the title of king, Milton - in a passage Norbrook quotes - activates the style of anticourtly sublime: "You deservedly reject that pomp of title which attracts the gaze and admiration of the multitude. For what is a title but a certain definite mode of dignity; but actions such as yours surpass, not only the bounds of our admiration, but our titles; and, like the points of pyramids, which are lost in the clouds, they soar above the possibilities of titular commendation."

In my view, this is a passage which also allows us to see deep into Milton's political subconscious by tracing that curious, almost Magritte-like comparison of Cromwell's epic actions to pyramids. Compare this passage with some lines from Book Five of Paradise Lost:

High on a hill, far blozing, as a mount Raised on a mount, with pyramids and towers From diamond quarries heren, and rocks of

We can recognise that pyramids, like Egypt itself, have Satanic connotations for Milton. He coded his detestation of Charles I and Charles II under the symbolic figure of the blind Pharaoh, the slayer of the Israelites' first-born sons.

In another prose work, "The Reason of Church Government", Milton compares the rule of bishops to a "pyramid" that aspires and sharpens to ambition: "the most dividing, and schismatical form that geometricians know of". Like William Blake, Milton disliked triangles, and by identifying them with Cromwell, he was bringing his anxieties about the direction of Cromwell's rule to the surface.

What emerges from Norbrook's plenary work is the need for a new edition of Paradise Lost which explains the many historical and literary allusions which are missing from modern versions. To read that supreme epic of English republican liberty is to be struck again and again by the fact that it is a patchwork of quotations from other texts, as well as a shimmer of glancing allusions to contemporary events.

Satan, for example, is compared to mist because the Royalists broke a treaty with Parliament during the Civil War and ambushed a parliamentary army under College, Oxford

cover of log near Brentwood in Essex. Meanwhile, these anti-rovalist lines: More solemn than the tedious pomp that

On princes, when their rich retinue long Of horses led, and grooms besineared with gold pick up statements by Lady Macbeth after King Duncan's murder. Milton is associating royal pomp and ceremony with a murderous would-be king, though I wonder if at a deeper subconscious level there may be some knot of regicide guilt here.

If a non-specialist can pick up such allusions, how many more can a Milton scholar find? Now that he has hatched Writing the English Republic out of the abyss of royalist Oxford, I suggest that an ambitious publisher invite Norbrook to do a new edition of Paradise Lost. One thing, sadly, is certain. That publisher will not be Oxford University Press, for that disastrously managed and discredited outfit - a department of the university - has axed its poetry list. Did the academics who are styled "delegates to the press" resign? No: like Satan's minions, they clung to the cliff ledge of their bountiful free books. As we wait for that shining new edition of Paradise Lost, let us give thanks for those long years this exemplary Scottish scholar spent in the Bodleian Library, researching the deep structures of English liberty.

Tom Paulin is a fellow of Hertford

Duped by the mandolin's seductive sound

"THE MILLION-copy bestseller", yells the jacket on the latest reprint of Captain Corelli's Mandolin (Vintage, £5.99). A trifle previous, perhaps, since the latest figures showed the ubiquitous commuter's companion on sales of 995,000. At any rate, the Louis de Bernières blockbuster has helped to fuel some smug punditry about the upwardlymobile drift of the book charts. More will follow in the wake of the late Laureate's Whitbread victory this week, as Ted Hughes has lately outsold the likes of Terry Pratchett and Maeve Binchy. (Then again, Birthday Letters on its current form might well walk away with the Eurovision Song Contest, or even the Cheltenham Gold Cup.)

It's true enough that a handful of classy titles now profit from the

kind of marketing barrage that once served only pulp and glitz. Liberally sprinkled with the likes of Cold Mountain, Memoirs of a Geisha or The God of Small Things, the fiction Top Tens of the late 1990s do appear to have undergone a rapid evolutionary spurt. A decade or so ago, the equivalent lists would freeze in the tacky grip of Jackie (Collins), Jilly (Cooper), Freddy (Forsythe), and their friends. These days, such aristocrats of the airport racks will often undersell their

"literary" rivals by a mile. So far, so flattering - to readers, retailers and publishers alike. Yet it takes a trunk of cash to make a star - especially at the top end of the market. Even Captain Corelli, that fabled word-of-mouth success. enjoyed more PR attention than its

A WEEK IN BOOKS



BOYD TONKIN

Are we really 'braining up' to better books?

legend would suggest. The pizzazz that can catapult a complex novelist to peaks of fame will cost enough to ensure that other good writers languish in a deeper obscurity than

ever. In publishing, the differentials that divide the pampered élite from the rest have widened oceanically. Matthew 25:29 springs to mind: "Unto every one that hath shall be given...". So a host of gifted authors in the hard-pressed so-called "midlist" now find themselves not so much published as simply printed. There's no such thing as a free publication lunch, and the perceived second division will

always pick up the tab. At least plenty of novelists still find a home of sorts. Many species of non-fiction authors face not just neglect but extinction. Eliminate the journeyman biographies, the modish memoirs, the moonlighting scientists, the Cooked-up kiss-andtells, and the non-fiction prospects for early 1999 look pitifully thin.

I have been savouring an exquisite set of essays and narratives by the American nature writer Barry Lopez, About This Life (Harvill, £12). This peerless stylist records reflective journeys across tundra or tropic that stand in relation to Bill Bryson's jolly trips roughly as Messiaen does to Madonna. A balanced culture needs both, of course - but dozens of chequebooks wave for the Brysons while only a few brave souls (in this case, Christopher MacLehose at

Harvill) dare bid for the Lopezes. Non-fiction writing of this grace and grandeur now looks as rare, and as threatened as the wolves or bears Lopez so lyrically pursues. However sweet that chart-topping mandolin sounds, we need - more than ever - to hear different times.



THE PREMATURE BURIAL

Crying and lying on the road to truth

South Africa's 'rainbow nation' found not a crock of gold but a can of worms. Christopher Hope looks inside

from 1996 to 1998, a panel called the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It became known as the TRC because everything in South Africa is stripped down to bare initials. The the idea that it was seen as lynch party Commission held public hearings across the country. Those who had suffered under the old regime were invited to tell their stories, and claim redress. And those responsible were

encouraged to own up.

Antjie Krog followed the TRC as a radio reporter, and it gripped her body and soul. The TRC was a kind of of stock-taking into the mountain of damaged goods the old regime left behind. The Commission was also one of the oddest bodies ever to lumber across the South African landscape. It was built of all the colours of what used to be called "the rainbow nation" - until people found the rainbow led not to a crock of gold but to a can of worms,

and the expression fell into disuse. It was led by a bishop, Desmond Tutu, and ran, it seems, on tears, rhetoric and adrenalin. When the Commissioners were not horrified by the evidence, they were horrified with each other. They regularly broke down and wept. Or called each other "racists". Or, worse still, "liberals" -

THERE EXISTED in South Africa, and, in the new South Africa, that's an even dirtier word than it was in the old

Reading about the Commission in the Afrikaans press, I sometimes got led by a black bishop in a frock. Scep-tical Afrikaners called it the "Crying and Lying Commission".

The TRC looked at the years between 1960 until 1993 - the age of High Apartheid. The period was arbitrary, but one must start somewhere. Start at the beginning and you would have to go back three centuries to the first Dutch settlers in the Cape, who bought a gang of slaves, plenty of whips, and retired to the shade of a thorn tree. The British took it over from there. And, finally, the Afrikaners turned it into the state religion.

Antije Krog is an Afrikaner and this adds a fine edge to her telling. Her book is less about the victims of one of the cruellest and most stupid forms of blood-religion ever devised than about the anguish of many Afrikaners. Shame is what they feel, she says shrewdly, but not guilt. She is right, as any cursory reading of the white nationalist papers will show. Alas, very few people read the Afrikaans press. But she is mistaken when she says



Country of My Skull by Antjie Krog Jonathan Cape, £16.99, 304pp

that the TRC made whites aware of what had been done in their name. Let us dispose of the canard that some people "didn't know". It was almost impossible not to know what was going on. You could not escape it if you wanted to. Apartheid was never a dirty little secret. It was for many people as

natural as breathing.
The deal went something like this. Afrikaners ran the country; Englishspeakers went into business. Good South Africans were rewarded with rugby matches. Bad South Africans went to jail. Those who disagreed with the regime were exiled, jailed, banned pushed from high windows, bombed

shot and hanged. The people who ran the show were proud of it. And most whites not only knew how the show was run – they approved.

But the TRC at least provoked an assault on the collective loss of memory. Businessmen and judges, for example, now deny aiding and abet-ting the regime. Yet back in the old days it was as hard to find a captain of industry who did not support the regime as it is these days finding one who admits doing so. It is claimed that judges never supported the regime. But there was no need to: their judgements did it for them.

Appearing before the Commission were the foot-soldiers of apartheid: the torturers, interrogators, gunmen, informers, bombers and contract killers. But what of the big fish, those figures called in South African cliche-babble the "major players"? The white leaders who promoted the murder programmes; or the ANC commanders who sent bombers into shopping malls? They regretted past "mistakes", dodged and weaved, or refused to testify. And blamed the "other" side.

Black and white politicians did what they do best. It is the old South African impulse - when in doubt, form a cartel and duff up the opposition.

○ **339** 8 ●

Perhaps it does not matter. Country of My Skull is worth reading for the stories told by those who suffered most. Bereaved wives, fathers, lovers and children speak of their loss and their pain in voices so free of hatred that one can only marvel. Their evidence makes this one of the most remarkable books to come out of South Africa for a long time.

Antjie Krog did not cover the final few months of the Commission's life. Disillusion spread. Truth, as Pontius Pilate knew, is a dodgy little number to pin down - and reconciliation fared not much better. Poll after poll showed black and white further apart after the Commission wound down than before it started.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission began, in the eyes of some, as the government's creature. But faced with unpalatable truths about ANC atrocities, the government muttered darkly about shelving the final report. Tutu, as chairman, said he would go to jail first. It was just like old times. The TRC managed, in the end, to upset just about everyone - and that is a rather wonderful achievement.

Christopher Hope publishes his new novel, 'Signs of the Heart', in June

'By far the most astute and painful dissection of male sexual restlessness that I have read' Daily Mail

'Hanif Kureishi's best book so far

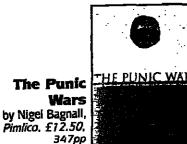


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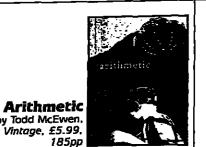


BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST



by Steve Tesich. IN THIS second novel Steve Tesich (who died in 1996 aged 53) has created an antihero as appealing as any dreamt up by Philip Roth or Saul Bellow Dr Saul Karoo is a curmudgeonly script doctor with a drink problem, an ex-wife and an

A MODERN Field-Marshal applies his strategic expertise to the greatest confrontation of classical times. The 118-year conflict between Carthage and Rome was initiated by the expansionist Romans, who got more than they bargained for when Hannibal hacked his way almost to the walls of Rome. Bagnell's analysis is leavened with character sketches and dry humour. He notes that a ferocious general who advocated cannibalism to ease logistics problems was "obviously a very practical fellow, if a bit short on realism."



CHILDHOOD, SOUTHERN Californianstyle is the subject of Todd McEwen's latest comic novel. Thrown out of their hacienda-style bungalow to make way for the building of Disneyland, Joe Lake's family is relocated to a new tract home in a new town. School is OK until Joe blows it by taking a huge jadecoloured pencil (topped off with a wooden China man) to his maths class. From then on, arithmetic comes to embody all the "crappy feelings" he has for his new home. An energetic and

brightly lit child's-eye view of life in the

dirt hills of Orange County.

by Todd McEwen.

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Venice Beach hopeful. The Beast in the Nursery by Adam Phillips.

Faber, £7.99. 134pp

interior life to match literature's most

executive Jay Cromwell to rewrite the

first film of legendary director Arthur

Houseman, Karoo ends up selling what's

left of his soul for the sexual favours of a

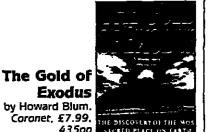
hyped-up middle-aged males. Called

upon by sleazy Hollywood studio

Karoo

Vintage.

THIS BOOK consists of only three short essays, plus intro and coda, but you don't fell short-changed. Prompted by Freud ("the child's profundity is in the quality of his curiosity"), Phillips muses not so much on childhood as the losses experienced on the path to adulthood. Every line resonates with potent insights, often arousing feelings we have long forgotten: "The child is the virtuoso of desire... To forget the pleasures of anticipation is to forget memory itself." Indifference, says Phillips, is never an option for children. They are "suspicious of clarity... in awe of the passions".



THOUGH IT reads like an airport novel, this is a real-life account of an attempt by a dodgy American duo - an "ex-SWAT team member" and a "politician and treasure hunter" - to find gold hidden on the "true Mount Sinai". While diving in the Red Sea, they chance upon "the land bridge that the Israelites crossed 4000 years ago". Sadly, the mountain of Moses turns out to be a Saudi nuclear base and our heroes are arrested. "Don't even think of turning cute on me", warns their captor. Were they set up by Mossad? Who cares? Reading this book is like being

cornered by bar-room fantasists.

On the Move: feminism for a new generation edited by Natasha Walter, Virago, £9.99.

IN HER book The New Feminism, The Independent's Natasha Walter challenged the assumption that feminism had become a dirty word among young women. This anthology of nine essays (including pieces by MP Oona King, journalists Kath Viner and Aminatta Forna, Helen Wilkinson of Demos, and several 15 to 18-year-olds) resoundingly proves her point. It's a passionately argued and undogmatic read. and Walter says she found herself disagreeing with many contributors' opinions. The only shame is that some of feminist's liveliest commentators were too long in the tooth to be included.

MOVE

BESTSELLERS

ent is the order of the day at the top of the non-fiction list. The top seven titles tackle the inner and outer man and woman, as well as their surroundings. And it has been argued this week that a fair proportion of the phenomenal 150,000 copies

sold of Ted Hughes's multi-award-winning Builday Letters has been purchased by aspirational readers, rather than by dyed in the wool poetry lovers. Patricia Comwell's avid fans have ensured that Southern Cross, her latest thriller, goes straight in at

number two, denied the top slot by Patricia Scanlan's tale of the lives and loves of three young women. Compiled from sales oper seven days ending 25 January 1999 C Bookwatch Ltd. 1999

PRICE

ORIGINAL FICTION

75	TLB	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	WEEKLY SALES	
				£5.99
1 (2)	City Girl	Patricia Scanlan (Bantam)	2,839	£16.99
2 (-)	Southern Cross	Patricia D Cornwell (Little, Brown)	2,171	£4.99
3 (1)	Tiffany's Secret Diary	Kate Lock (BBC)	1,940	£5.99
4 (3)	Tom Clancy's Powerplays	Tom Clancy (Penguin)	1.430	£9.99
5 (4)	Ramses 5: Under the Western Aca	da Christian Jacq (Simon & Schuster)	1,175	£16
6 (10)		Bret Easton Ellis (Picador)	989	£5.99
7 (5)	Churchill's People	Mary Jane Staples (Corgi)	933	£16.99
8 (8)	This United State	Colin Forbes (Macmillan)	882	£16.99
9 (6)	Archangel	Robert Harris (Hutchinson)	841	₹5.99
10 (- <u>)</u>	Miracie Cure	Michael Palmer (Hutchinson)	760:	
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•		ORIGINAL NON-FICT	ION	
	TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	-WERKLY SALES	PRICE
	Men are from Mars	John Gray (Thorsons)	3,529	£8.99
	Delia's How to Cook	Delia Smith (BBC)	3,386	£16.99
	Little Book of Feng Shui	Lillian Too (Element)	2,784	£1.99
	The Little Book of Calm	Paul Wilson (Penguin)	2,116	£18.99
	Seafood Odyssey	Rick Stein (BBC)	1,990	
	Low Fat Cookbook	Rosemary Conley (Century)	1,841	£16.99
	Fighting Fat, Fighting Fit	Janette Marshall (BBC)	1,584	£4.99
	Birthday Letters	Ted Hughes (Faber)	1,554	£14.99
	Notes From a Big Country	Bill Bryson (Doubleday)	1,499	£16.99
	Station X: the codebreakers	Michael Smith (Channel 4)	1,219	£14.99
				

Dava Sobel (Fourth Estate)	1,661	£5.99
Michael Smith (Channel 4)	1,219	£14.99
G Hancock & R Bauval (Penguin)	687	£6.99
Simon Singh (Fourth Estate)		£5.99
David Ewing Duncan (Fourth Estate)	280	£12.99
Simon Lamb & David Sington (BBC)	200	£19.99
Steven Pinker (Penguin)	190	£9.99
Richard Dawkins (Alien Lane)	176	£20
Leo Marks (HarperCollins)		£19.99
	101	£17.99
	G Hancock & R Bauval (Penguin) Simon Singh (Fourth Estate) David Ewing Duncan (Fourth Estate) Simon Lamb & David Sington (BBC) Steven Pinker (Penguin)	G Hancock & R Bauval (Penguin) 687 Simon Singh (Fourth Estate) 306 David Ewing Duncan (Fourth Estate) 280 Simon Lamb & David Sington (BBC) 200 Steven Pinker (Penguin) 190 Richard Dawkins (Alien Lane) 176 Leo Marks (HarperCollins) 103

SPOKEN WORD



Classic Crimes of **Passion** read by Derek Jacobi CSA. 3hrs. £8.99

THIS WEEK's audio choices feature passions past and present, perfect escapist listening for those banished to bed with the 'flu. The Talkies Awards' Reader of the Year Derek Jacobi is probably best known at oresent for his

reading CSA Telltapes' unusual selection of murderous tales with a passionate twist from authors as various as Louisa May Alcott Algernon portrayal of Brother Blackwood, Guy de Maupassant and Cadfael (available on audio from Hodder Wilkie Collins.

Headline), but he

into his own in

comes magnificently



Come Together read by Jack Davenport and Natasha Little Random House, 2hrs

Lloyd and Emlyn Rees hatched a neat idea along Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus lines with this novel in which boy and girl alternate in telling the story of their meeting, each picking up where the other left off. Room for much almost

unbearable but

AUTHORS JOSIE

horribly true to life misunderstandings and a good deal of shrewd observation of current sexual mores (or rather amores). This "in your head" angle of approach works very well when read aloud, especially by such talented readers as Jack Davenport and Natasha "Becky Sharp" Little.

Dazzling horseplay around the pleasure-dome

Helen Stevenson revisits Lilliput with a female guide and enjoys a galloping satire on masculine follies ancient and modern



The Mistress of Lilliput by Alison Fell Doubleday, £12.99, 351pp

"SATIRE", WROTE Jonathan Swift, "is a sort of glass wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own." If a narrative is a glass, then what shall we say of Lemuel Gulliver's face? Age may not have withered him, nor even the fierce sun of the southern seas, but 300 years have lent a perspective to his features which no woman is inclined to find appealing. If we remember him now it is usually in an image from children's abridgements, pegged to Lilliputian earth, mightily fallen and ridiculous, pinioned like some weird voodoo doll.

rious continents of her own nature than in regions further flung".

Meanwhile, Mrs Mary Gulliver stayed at home and brought up the

children, patiently biding her time: and find him. Accordingly, she sets "Like many of her sex my mistress was more interested in the myste-

Now, at last, she has been given something to do. Alison Fell's narrator is Mrs Gulliver's doll, who owes equanimity to the fact that she is less susceptible to the sliding scale of self-regard and loathing than most women - being of an unvarying size.

Nothing daunted by her husband's brief visit home, at a time when he was suffering from severe

sail with her little wooden doll, hoping to make up for lost conjugal time.

A cloak of wide-eyed naivety is standard dress-code for the ironist. Travels and travails do not dim Mary's optimism. Her experience of the exotic does not so much whet her appetite for a voyage of personal discovery as lead her more fervently to wish for a time when she may be reunited with her errant spouse.

In the meantime, she suffers her due ration of shipwrecks, sunstrokes and persecutions. Her most mem-Hippomania and unable to abide his orable experiences occur on Lilliput, own species, Mrs Gulliver adopts a where the little people decide to puncheery attitude. She resolves to go ish her by proxy for her husband's

offences against their country. The construction of a stately pleasure dome is decreed, in which Mary will be displayed to a curious public. "The emperor has endorsed the establishment of a Popular Pleasure Palace, with opportunities for sport and leisure, and arcades for market stalls and penny amusements, for he is persuaded that such an enterprise will not only swell the coffers of the country but also distract the populace, whose minds dwell with resentment upon their penury." Most of the satire in this novel is directed at the familiar notion that women are keener on ecstasy than on enquiry. I enjoyed this brief instance

INSPIRATIONS

of plain contemporary pin-sticking. Gulliver is bound to be completely off his head by the time Mary catches up with him, but he was only ever a pretext. Given a choice between a humourless Hippomane (he is still inclined to the odd snort) and a giggly Frenchman obsessed with breeding strawberry plants, you might think she would have done better staying at home and getting to know a nice merchant or vicar. But some women just don't

know what's good for them Words like sprightly, dazzling, brilliant spring to mind. Alison Fell wields glittering 18th-century pastiche prose like a deadly letter-

opener concealed in a lady's purse itself concealed in a larger envelope, which is a literary form invented by men for men. The Mistress of Lilliput is an extraordinarily clever and impressive piece of writing, but it is not immune to the weaknesses of the genre - monotony, an atmosphere of relentless performance, the risk that the wind will change and the prose will stick like this till the final sentence. Men call this consistency. Alison Fell is a superb writer, but by the end of this novel, I felt her skills were dwarfing a genre she had outgrown in the course of writing. I look forward to more of the same, but different.

5 . a car.

23.

The State of the S

Charlie, coke, cream, snow -

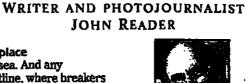
the names change but the song remains the same...



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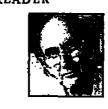
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John Reader's latest book is 'Africa: a biography of the continent', published by Penguin at £14,99



Books worth thinking about

see page 7 of The Independent Magazine THE WEEKEND REVIEW

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OUNTRY & GARDEN



Water, water everywhere

GARDEN WORKSHOP: What is the best way to renovate a waterlogged garden in the Lake District? Anna Pavord offers a solution

from Cornwall to Cumgarden of about half an acre which was last cared for 12 years ago. Neighbours have told ns that this was once a lovely garden and we think that several of the remaining trees and bushes look interesting, if neglected. We have started to clear out the elder, hazel, sycamore, etc. that have seeded, and have begun to make a patch for a vegetable garden, but we have hit several problems.

The area outside the side door (and main entrance) becomes soggy when it rains. The levels are erratic. Can we make it drier? If so, how? I know it has rained a lot recently, but even the path sinks under water.

We know where we would like to put the vegetable/fruit garden, but have been told that nearby trees will take all the goodness out of the soil If so, can we overcome this? I am used to a Cornish garden and also want to know how best to continue to grow my

WE MOVED recently favourite squashes, cape goose- recent neglect, the Mackintoshes garden. She felt (hooray!) that a gar- unlikely to suffer from the presence some rolls of Agralan fleece to pro- and with the best aspect in the berries, etc. in a northern climate. have taken on a place with some den un-gardened was a criminal We have a rough idea now of the original layout of the garden, but

have requirements of our own, so the garden must evolve. The three children need an area of lawn; I need a herb garden and we want to keep a "wild" boundary next to the road.

However, we also want to work within the existing framework as much as possible and to incorporate some of the surviving trees and shrubs. How do we go about rescuing the neglected ones?

EMMA MACKINTOSH, her husband Ross and their three children (Alex, who is six, five-year-old Katherine, and John, three) live in a long, low, white-harled farmhouse near Hawkshead in the Lake District. The house is beautifully situated, sheltered by rising land and well screened by trees, including ancient beeches. People must have been gardening round this house since at least the 1600s and, despite the to release the potential of the chosen for their vegetable plot is greenhouse and this, together with

southern boundary of the garden and immediately behind that is a wonderfully wild stream (sorry beck), hung with ferns and mosses. Along this boundary, somebody who knew his plants has set fine rhododendrons, acers and azaleas, some of them now 12-15ft high. The path to the kitchen door is made from huge black flagstones, which continue round the south and west sides of the house. The site is flattish and the soil, though probably hungry, as many acid soils are,

looked light and easy to work. Having taken on a house that was a ruin, and a garden that was completely impenetrable, I do not underestimate the slog that is needed to clear undergrowth and restore some sense of order and delight in a garden. Fortunately, Emma Mackintosh seemed more than equal to

the task Most importantly, she was keen

waste of opportunity. And she had An old stone wall marks the ideas and energy. At the moment,

she is doing a textile design course, but had already dug an impressive vegetable plot and (with her husband) released many rhododendrons from choking bramble and elder. I felt like getting out my fork and joining her there and then. Ross Mackintosh trained as a

land agent, so he will know better

than I the best way to drain the land by the side door. Only time will tell how necessary this may be. Although the Lake District was severely flooded on the day of my visit, I got to the Mackintoshes' door dryshod. But water is weird stuff, with a mind of its own. If it decides to be troublesome, a simple land drain exploiting the lie of the land towards the beck would keep it out of harm's way. The wide flagstone path at least prevents the area immediately around the house from churning into mud.

The patch the Mackintoshes have

soil is light and stony, so will, anyway, need regular feeding. They are lucky in that they have access to as much farmyard manure as they want, and that a field gate leads from the lane directly into the lower part of the garden, close to the vegetable patch. A tractor could deliver a load of FYM without upsetting any other part of the garden

But will Emma Mackintosh be able to go on growing the squashes and other tender produce she enjoyed in her Cornish garden? I don't see why not. Although, geographically, they have made an enormous leap north, growing conditions may not be as different as she believes. For a start, their Cumbrian house is sheltered. And it is low, on a level with Esthwaite Water opposite. It is also much sunnier, she says, than their Cornish house, which was tucked away in a deep coombe.

But she will need artificial help in extending the growing season. The Mackintoshes have acquired a

of apple trees at one end of it. The tect crops from early frosts, should garden, this would be the most be all she needs. She can start the squash seedlings in 3in pots on her window ledge, harden them off in the greenhouse and set them out in early eschecholzia and Shirley poppies, June aiready well grown, Tomatoes will probably do better in the greenhouse than outside.

The layout of the garden was not entirely satisfactory. Mrs Mackintosh had discovered two beds that seemed once to lie either side of a ther side of the massive chimney stone-edged path, but they were rather lost in the expanse of grass and did not relate to any other features in the garden. Nor did the strip of path between them link to any access from the house. She wanted somewhere to grow

herbs and flowers, but I did not feel this was the right place. The beds would always look as though they had been dumped from on high by a passing auk. But the west side of the house joined on to a south-facing stone boundary wall, which up as a disguise. Even so, it worried

butting onto some huge flagstones.

mixed with bright annuals such as with Iceland and Welsh poppies too. "Tm a very bright person," said Mrs Mackintosh. "I love colour." Poppies, and other annuals, could deliver as much as she wanted.

There was space for a bench eistack, where you could sit with your back against the west wall of the house, looking out at the sun setting over Esthwaite. Thyme from the herb garden would soon creep out and colonise the cracks between the flagstones.

Unfortunately, there was already a snake in this Eden. An oil tank had got to the sunny south wall before the Mackintoshes. Colour-washed trellis, covered with sweet peas or nasturtiums, will have to be thrown made a wonderfully warm corner, me. Who on earth could be mad enough to waste a south-facing wall Protected as it was on two sides, in Cumbria on an oil tank?

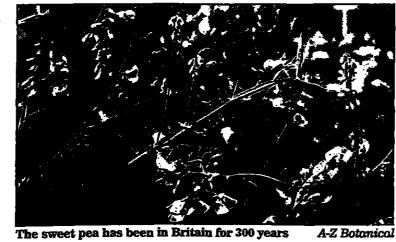
CUTTINGS

NEWS FROM THE GARDENERS' WORLD

A SNOWDROP Study Day will be held at the National Trust's garden, Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambs on Thursday 11 February (11am-3.30pm). Dr Aaron Davies, will talk about wild species. Richard Ayres, head gardener at Anglesey, will explain how the garden's collection of snowdrops has increased and evolved over the years. Rod Leeds will lecture on the best snowdrops to use in the garden. After lunch. there will be a guided walk round the garden and species snowdrops will be available for sale. For details, or to book a place (tickets £25) on the study day, contact Lady Nourse, Dullingham House, Dullingham, Newmarket, Norfolk CB8 9IP (01638 508186).

THIS YEAR marks a milestone for the sweet pea in Britain. It is 300 years since the first seeds were sent to Dr Uvedale, an Enfield schoolmaster, by Franciscus Cupani, a Sicilian monk. The seed firm Unwins, which specialises in sweet peas, is introducing several new varieties to mark the tricentenary. 'Sir Cliff', named after Cliff Richard, is a striking rosypurple colour.

'Rosy Dawn' was bred by crossing a large, frilly Spencer sweet pea, 'Mrs Bernard Jones', with the 19th-century variety 'America', which, though small, had flowers marked with a distinctive



pattern of contrasting rays. The new variety has flowers much bigger than the norm, white

imprinted with rays of orange-pink. Some experts favour autumn sowing. Mice have dissuaded me from that. I sow in late January or early Fehruary, setting seven seeds in a 5-in pot. Water, cover with cling film, then leave the pot until the seedlings poke through. This

happens very quickly, Over-watering is fatal while the seeds are germinating. Like other legumes, sweet pea seeds can absorb too much water for their own good, which causes the cells to self-destruct. Top growers sow on a

thin layer of sharp sand spread on compost, then cover the seeds with more compost. Set outside as soon as you can. Seedlings are hardy and grow leggy if they are kept inside too long. Plant in permanent positions in late March or early April. For Unwins' catalogue, call

TWENTY-ONE MORE trees have been added to the Great Trees of London register and given green plaques by the London Tree Forum. They include Britain's tallest plane tree, beside the Thames at Richmond; London's oldest plane, in nearby Barnes; the Kenley House oak in Croydon; and an ancient churchyard yew in Charles Darwin's village of Downe. For details of the Great Trees and how to nominate one, contact the London Tree Forum, PO Box 15146, London WC2B 6SJ.

THE EAST Anglian seedsmen Marshalls are inviting customers to trial a new potato, 'Osprey'. Anyone who orders two or more 6kg packs of potatoes from the catalogue will get five free 'Osprey' tubers. The potato was bred from 'Kestrel' and is an early maincrop variety, with good resistance to scab, and a smooth skin, marked with shallow purple eyes, like the Scottish favourite 'Catriona'.

In Marshalls' own trials, 'Osprey' produced at least 5lb of potatoes from each plant and was ready to dig by late July.

Two dozen different kinds of potato are listed in Marshalls' catalogue, from 'Swift', the earliest of earlies, to 'Pink Fir Apple', the gourmet potato that need not be harvested until October. Pink Fir Apple' has another advantage, too. The tubers do not sprout in the sack at this time of the year, as so many other kinds do. Try it. Once you have tasted it, you will never want to be without it. For a copy of Marshalls' catalogue, write to them at Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2RF or

XTHE INDEPENDENT Lightweight Gardening Phone 0181 540 9696

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Time to badger the scientists?

COUNTRY **MATTERS**



DUFF HART-DAVIS

im and Sarah Pain, who farm near Tortworth in Gloucestershire, have lost their entire dairy herd. Once they had 80 Friesians; but again and again their cows reacted to routine tests for bovine tuberculosis - transmitted, they are certain, by badgers.

Two weeks ago the last of the cows went for slaughter. The farm is now "closed down" – no cattle are allowed in or out. The compensation paid by the Government is not enough to keep the Pains going, and they are desperate at the loss of their livelihood.

So it was that Tim's sister-in-law June called a public meeting to air the whole question of badgers and TB, and on Monday night more than 200 people crowded into a local roadhouse to hear the views of experts working on the problem.

But the gathering nearly did not take place at all, because in the middle of the day the manager of the hostelry temporarily lost his nerve: fearing disruption by animal-rights activists, he ordered the event to be cancelled, and it took the organisers three frantic hours to convince him that there was no need to panic. Such are the tensions aroused by

Brock and his way of life. As it turned out, no extremists appeared, and the meeting remained relatively good tempered; but there were plenty of barbed exchanges. and explosive emotions simmered beneath the surface.

The various speakers sketched in relevant recent history. Badgers are now a fully protected species. and nobody may cull them or interfere with their setts without special permission. Immunity from persecution by humans has sent the national population soaring, from about 250,000 in the late Eighties to more than 400,000 today.

The only large-scale cull now carried out is the unintentional one on the roads: some 50.000 animals are killed by vehicles every year.

The correlation between badgers and TB in cattle was first noticed in the Seventies, and the earliest culi of badgers by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) was carried out on a farm in Dorset in 1975. Removing Professor John Krebs last year, badgers from an area of 3,000 acres. by gassing and trapping, eliminated TB in cattle for the time being; a similar cull round Thornbury, in the Severn Vale, was equally successful.

badgers proved to be so strong that successive governments backed off from culling: gassing of setts was stopped in 1982, replaced by an in-

trouble is concentrated in Britain's South-west. Cornwall being the hardest-hit county. Gloucestershire the second worst.

terim policy of trapping and shoot-

ing, and in 1997 almost all control

measures ceased.

Earlier Government inquiries - by Lord Zuckerman in 1980, and Professor Dunnet in 1986 - failed to devise a viable long-term strategy.

The latest report, published by advocated further research - and on Monday the main speech was given by Professor John Bourne, the distinguished scientist heading the independent group appointed to

Yet public sentiment in favour of carry out a new programme for far too long - 45 minutes - and

The latest idea is to run com-

parative experiments in 10 separate sets of "triplets", each to consist of three contiguous areas of similar size. In one - the "proactive" area all badgers will be caught in bait-Meanwhile, the number of herds ed cage traps and shot. In the secinfected with TB leapt from 143 in ond, the "reactive" area, badgers will 1990 to 515 seven years later. The be culled only around sites of infection in cattle; in the third, the survey area. only general observations will be made. The first culls have aiready been carried out at Putford. in Devon, where more than 230 hadgers have been eliminated.

> Prof Bourne was at pains to emphasise the need for a full scientific investigation. "The wholesale eradication of badgers is not a strategy we can adopt for the long term," he said. His team is searching for a "sustainable policy".

> There was no doubting his ex-pertise or his sincerity. But he talked

when he drifted off into such rarefied concepts as the need for "multi-risk variate analysis of retrospective data", he lost most of his audience. Angry murmurs began to arise, in ripe Gloucestershire accents: "That's enough bloody science. Let's

have some common sense."

More down-to-earth was Dr. Chris Cheeseman, the man in be the downside of control". charge of a long-running experiment, in Woodchester Park, near Stroud, where badgers have been baited with peanuts and golden syrup.captured, tested, released. radio-tracked and generally studied for more than 15 years.

Research in that area has thrown up many anomalies. Numbers of badgers in the long, wooded valley are extraordinarily high - 25 adults to the square kilometre; but there appears to be no relationship between population density and the incidence of disease.

On the contrary: infestations seem to go in cycles, and outbreaks

of TB apparently occur as a result of badgers changing their patterns of movement. Thus human intervention, in the form of culling and the creation of

voids, may make matters worse rather than better As Dr Cheeseman put it, "perturbation appears to

mitted through urice, droppings and saliva deposited on grassiand. especially permanent pasture. where badgers bunt for worms, and much of their contamination is placed along "linear features" such as walls, ditches and hedges. In conditions favourable to the TB bacillus, it can survive for up to 11 months in this environment.

All this was good, interesting stuff. Yet the burden of the evening was that scientists still have a poor understanding of the subject. Why

Gardening

Independent Traders Team

on 0171 293 2323.

- people wanted to know - has Maff been so dilatory and secretive about badgers for the last two decades? Why are we still so far from pro-

ducing vaccines that would immunise both badgers and cattle? What, above all, is going to happen in the seven years that, it is estimated. Professor Bourne's team will need to complete its trials? In the view of many the situation in the South-west

is already out of control. What farmers want is a Government policy that will enable more badger culls to be made in hot-spots where the incidence of TB is particularly severe. As one woman out it. The crazy thing is, it's illegal to kill the vermin that are causing the trouble. If it were rats or rabbits, we could take matters into our own hands. But because it's badgers, our hands are tied."

The difficulty is, most people do not see badgers as vermin; there would be an outcry if widespread

Mobility

CLASSIFIED: INDEPENDENT TRADERS

culling were reintroduced. A notable absentee from Monday's meeting was Dr Elaine King, Conservation

Officer for the National Federation of Badger Groups (NFBG) and a leading champion of the species. The federation, which has 85 roups and 20,000 members, has been pressing for more open-mind-

edness on the whole question; but Dr King herself had been warned off attending, as it was thought her presence might cause chaos. She did. however, send a representative in the form of Pauline Kidner, who delighted the audience by admitting that the NFBG is in favour of culling animals known to be infected.

That was one of the few crumbs of comfort the farmers derived from an evening full of interest but offering little hope of immediate relief. As several speakers remarked, the issues involved - unlike the face of the animal under scrutiny - are anything

Gardening

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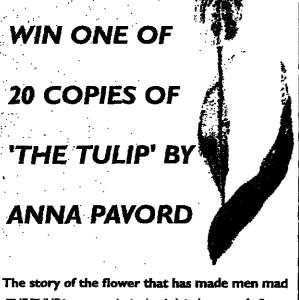
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TB or not TB? They may look cute but are badgers the cause of the bovine tuberculosis which is wiping out entire dairy herds?



THE TULIP is not a gardening book. It is the story of a flower devotion have all played their part in the development of the tulip from a wild flower of the Asian steppes to the worldwide phenomenon it is today.

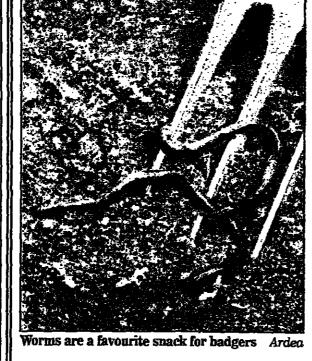
No other flower has ever carried so much cultural baggage; it charts political upheavals, illuminates social behaviour, mirrors economic booms and busts, and plots the ebb and flow of religious persecution.

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BLOOMSBURY



NATURE NOTES

EARTHWORMS FORM the most important item in a badger's diet. They are made vulnerable by their habit of coming to the surface whenever the weather is warm, and lying out during the hours of darkness.

They cannot see or hear, but they are sensitive to light and vibration and usually keep one end anchored in a tunnel so that they can beat a quick retreat if they sense danger. (It is the four pairs of chaetae, or bristles, on each segment that enable the creatures to move by bodily contractions.) But badgers hunt so stealthily that they often take them by surprise, scoffing several within a minute,

and one animal may put away 200 worms during a single night. Moles also depend largely on earthworms for sustenance, and many birds eat them with relish.

Fortunately worms exist in immense quantities: it is estimated that an acre of good pasture contains from 100,000 to 3 million. They take a year to mature, and live up to 10 years.

They eat decaying organisms, but also take in soil and tiny pebbles. Their tunnelling and feeding aerate and drain the soil, and worms also improve its structure by drawing organic material into their burrows.

DUFF HART-DAVIS



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also appears on page 9.

THE WEEKEND REVIEW

INDEPENDENT ADVICE FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER: FROM THE ONLY NATIONAL NEWSPAPER TRAVEL SECTION THAT REFUSES FREE TRIPS

The Aegean's crescent of fire

A midwinter visit to Santorini fully reveals the volcanic cataclysm that has shaped this extraordinary Greek island. By Simon Calder

lympic scandals they've been in the news all week, so here's another one: it's a scandal that about the only way to reach the Aegean island of Santorini in winter is on the Greek national airline, Olympic. Consequently you will pay a small fortune to get there. and you may not be able to leave when you planned. But while the means may be less than ideal, the end justifies the journey.

To stand at the top of the nearsheer cliff that vanishes into the Aegean is to feel you are on the edge of disaster. Wintry clouds glower darkly, while slick, black rocks usher your eye down to the surf crashing with fury and futility against the western shore.

Let your gaze follow the whiteflecked crescent of coastline and, when the land ends, allow your imagination to complete the circle, as it might a young moon. The lunar analogy is apt, because looming from the sea are heaps of debris straight from the Nasa props department. The word "calamity" is barely appropriate for what happened here.

There came a sound, as if from within the earth Zeus's hollow thunder boomed,

awful to hear. The horses lifted heads towards

And pricked their ears; while

strange fear fell on us Euripides was writing five centuries before Christ, but the event he ated on a skeleton staff. The Volcano was quite possibly describing happened at least a millennium earlier. **.** At some fateful instant between 1500 and 1625BC, the always abrasive plate tectonics of the eastern Mediterranean climaxed in a catastrophic eruption that tore the core from an island the size of the Isle of Wight, It wasn't the Atlantis of myth,

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but it was a thriving community. When you survey the surviving fragments of one of the biggest volcanic eruptions in the past 10 millennia, you feel in alarmingly close contact with the earth's crust. Present-day Santorini (also known as Thira) comprises a scattering of crumbs only tentatively attached to the rest of the planet.

The impact of the erupting volcano changed the ancient world, but in Greece there is clearly no such concept as seismic blight; even though little remained beyond a semicircle resembling a half-submerged Olympic ring, man clawed his way back on to the largest surviving fragment of the island. Santorini has found a post-apocalyptic role as a community dependent on agriculture and tourism.



island - Mount Ilias, around 600 metres above the simmering sea and you can see how scruffily the repopulation has sprawled across the eastern slope.

Your problems, meanwhile, are that an entire island can be opercater for the summer's flotillas of

frequently foul. I am staying at the ambitiously named Porto Fira Hotel, which resembles a warren of whitebeen bombarding for a couple of days now, splashing against the whitewashed walls. Every so often the grey is enlivened by a flash of lightning that heralds an Atlantean rumbling of thunder. The electric heater in the room has just fused after I tried to dry my sodden socks on it. At 2am last night, the only surviving mosquito in the northern hemisphere managed to insinuate itself into my room, despite the

against the cold, and dined famously. emerges and makes it all worthwhile, when shafts of gold light play poetically upon the ragged wilderness. And, if you meander along to the patch of ground that serves as



Luckily, Santorini's main town, Fira, embraces all the values of an idyllic Cycladic settlement: a mix of delicate white cottages on the crest of the caldera, laced with narrow lanes that resonate with church bells. In summer, torrents of tourists swirl through the town, but in midwinter your only company is likely to be a community of funny little cats.

likely to be considerable. The good thing about the Greek islands out of twice as old, which suffered the season, it is commonly said, is that they are wonderfully quiet. That inoffensive word "quiet" conceals a consensus of closure, the concept Hotel, the Atlantis restaurant and the Enigma disco are all shut down, as are almost all of the "rooms" that backpackers.

Furthermore, the weather is washed Hobbit holes. The rain has door and window being sealed

Now and again, though, the sun a bus station, you can travel around



All quiet now - but for how long? The volcano that shaped the geography of Santorini is still active

where the solitude of winter is re- the second millennium BC.

You know Pompeii? Imagine a city south west of Santorini. But persesmattering of buildings and, beyond, ungainly roof serves as insulation for sophisticated society.

the crescent of Santorini to a place the miraculous resurrection of life in

Four or five thousand people lived in Akrotiri before the eruption. They were accomplished mariners. same volcanic smothering but is which provided them with both preserved even more perfectly. You wealth from trade, and ideas from may doubt this when the bus-driver ancient Egypt. Nearly 4,000 years drops you off by a iron gate in the far ago their city was accomplished in its technology - the walls of two- and vere: wander into a field with a three-storey buildings bear witness to advanced engineering - and its you find a slender ravine covered artistry, with vibrant wall paintings with brutish corrugated iron. This and elaborate pottery depicting a

The art has been appropriated by Athens, and you will need to visit room 48 of the National Archaeological Museum in the capital to gasp at the intense images. But the fortunate winter visitor may encounter has been excavating the site for three decades. As you wander around streets whose tangle mimics the modern-day town, he will explain yet more similarities to the 20th century: how certain buildings served as shops and banks to a busy,

sor Christos Doumas, who wealthy community. And he will

Hopping 1998 by Frewin Poffley (Thomas Cook, £12.95) is the essential survey of all ferry services plus entertainingly

Tourism Organisation, 4 Conduit 734 5997). A good source of books is Hellenic Bookservice, 91 Fortess Road, London NW5 IAG (0171-267 9499).

World', presented by Simon Sharp, will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 at 8pm next

point out the grave of Spiridon Mari- can appreciate the wide-screen natos, the man whose meticulous research led him to uncover Akrotiri beneath many metres of volcanic dust in 1967. Professor Marinatos died in a fall at the site in 1974.

corpse known to exist in Akrotiri. The citizens appear to have been fully aware of the vulnerability of their location. It appears that before the eruption they fled the city, thoughtfully leaving jars full of grain beneath doorways - then, as now, this was the safest place in an earthquake.

Just as a door frame could not withstand the weight of tons of volcanic ash, so there remains no trace of the population ever having made safe landfall, given the scale of the tidal wave that accompanied the eruption. Euripides again: To the sea-beaten shore/ We looked, and saw a monstrous wave that soared/ Into the sku.

The reverberations of the volcano are still being felt. Last century, for example, the French engineer Ferquarried from Santorini to make the impervious concrete essential to the building of the Suez Canal - a fundamental artery for the modern

Back on the island, though, there remains one more ritual for the winter visitor. If you can gather together a few stragglers left over from the summer season, you can charter a fishing boat for about £50 from the timid little harbour that huddles at wonder of the rock face, and discern many more colours than the black that first registered, with electric

Simon Colder

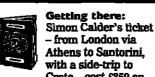
greens and rust reds prominent. The boatman will steer out across e submerged crater, towa cent creation: the island of Nea Kameni ("new burnt island"), directly above the centre of the crater. It has emerged over the past three centuries, but fits no preconceptions of what a Greek island should look like; the earth has simply spewed volcanic wreckage into the Aegean,

with the lava freezing where it fell. Talking of freezing: if you are feeling brave, or foolhardy, or working for a radio producer keen on some audio vérité, you may plunge from teh boat into the wintry water and paddle frantically around in search of the promised 40°C currents.

The sulphuric steam rising from the centre of the island draws you along a narrow inlet, and reminds you of Euripides's "foaming blood and breath from the deep sea". But soon dinand de Lesseps used volcanic ash the crush of rocks gets too intense and you retreat to the cooler, choppier Aegean, where you can reflect on the fascination about Thira that goes way beyond its rugged beauty a place where history meets hydrodynamics, vulcanology meets ar-

chaeology, and science meets fiction. Gazing at the destruction poses some big questions. Where and when will there next be an eruption of such magnitude? Could Thira itself ever change the world again? the foot of the cliff. From here, you And where's that towel?

FACT FILE charter from a range of UK



Crete - cost £359 on Olympic Airways (0171-409 3400). Once the summer flights begin and the ferries start a more regular service, it will be much cheaper to reach the island. The peak-season alternatives are as (1) Taking a scheduled flight

from London to Athens on British Airways (0345 222111), Cronus Air (0171-580 3500), easyJet (0870 6 000 000), Olympic Airways (0171-409 3400) or Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747), followed by a ferry from Piraeus. (2) The same idea but using a

airports to Athens. (3) A charter flight to Heraklion, on Crete, and a ferry from there. (4) A direct charter flight from

Gatwick to Santorini, perhaps as part of a package: Kosmar Holidays (0181-882 6999) is one of More Information: Hellenic relatively few companies to go there, starting in May. Getting around: Bus services

around Santorini operate yearround, with a maximum fare of about £1. Car rental is cheap and widely available. Cycling is not a happy way to travel around the island in winter.

If you plan to visit Santorini as part of an island-hopping itinerary, then Greek Island

about airlines pretending that FTVE MONTHS from tonight, ex-

pithy descriptions of the islands. The 1999 edition (same price) will be published on 12 March.

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YOU ARE probably a publicspirited sort of person, keen to enhance the enjoyment of people who follow in your holiday footsteps. So when, on the plane home from your package holiday, you are given a questionnaire to fill in, you dutifully appraise everything from the hotel check-in to the in-flight service, in the hope that your views will lead to happier travels for others.

But if you have done this on a Thomson holiday, prepare to be directed to a new travel agent. Britain's biggest holiday company has built up a mailing list of people who have filled in a "customer satisfaction questionnaire" on their holidays in recent years. This week, the database was put to use when half a million households were sent mailshots urging people to change their travel agent - in my case, recommending that I try one 200 miles away.

The "Thomson Preferred Agent" is Miss Ellie's International of Heaton Chapel, in Greater Manchester. No doubt it is a fine agency. But I like my

local branch of Going Places; the agency is staffed with friendly, capable people, and it has the great advantage of being on my cycle route to and from work. In the last few years I have booked holidays through them, with Going Places' parent company, Airtours; with another big operator, First Choice; and, on several occasions, with Thomson.

Given that I have spent about £2,000 on its holidays through Going Places in the last three years, why should Thomson want me to move? Is it because I will get better service from the staff in Manchester, or is it simply that Miss Ellie's International sells more Thomson holidays? I look forward to hearing from the company.

Going Places may also wish to respond over the way that its customers are being poached by its arch-rival Thomson. And you may wish to consider whether or not to fill in one of those customer service questionnaires, given that it may lead to unsolicited mail directing you 200 miles away.



SIMON CALDER

Filled in a form on a Thomson holiday? Prepare to be directed to a new agent...

In a spirit of encouraging competition, I shall be paying a visit to Miss Ellie's International in the next couple of weeks. So far, the best deal to reach it is on Virgin Trains, for £19 return. I wonder if there's anything cheaper? It's at times like this that you need a good travel agent.

NIC STUBBS, of Northampton, had a less happy experience with a branch of Going Places. Referring to last week's story taxes will rise from Monday, he writes: "If you think airlines are being sneaky about price rises, Going Places are pretty blatant about it. Last week I went to book a return flight for one from Birmingham to Dublin, for the end of April. I was quoted a reasonable price of £70, plus £10 tax and £1 SAR (whatever that is).

"Then the assistant said 'Oh, that comes to less than £100, so we charge you £10 extra.' I went to an independent travel agent the following day and booked my flight without any

surcharge. "I can appreciate that they may not have made a huge amount from my booking at either travel agent, but I know which one I shall do business with in the future."

Mr Stubbs also hints that the

second agent may have been rather more knowledgeable: The independent travel agent knew the code for Dublin airport without having to ask me." The code in question is the

tricky-to-remember DUB.

ries come to an end on 30 June. The demise of duty-frees within Europe influenced P&O Stena Line's decision to end the ferry link between Newhaven and Dieppe. As Gerard Gilbert predicted in these pages last month, the plug has now been pulled and the last ship will sail tomorrow. Happily, a rival ferry com-pany thinks it can make a go of the historic route. Hoverspeed

(0990 240241) starts a summe only service on 10 April. This is excellent news for eclipse fans, who will be able to watch the sun's disappearance on 11 August from Normandy The ferry is already booked for

pect wailing from cigarette and

drink manufacturers. Duty-free

sales on intra-EU flights and fer-

that date, but three- and fiveday return tickets are available. I'd love to view the eclipse from west Cornwall instead but Great Western Trains yesterday said it was still unable to take bookings for the event. The train operator said Railtrack has not yet revealed what services it will

allow to Penzance in August.



Here's some we didn't do earlier

The film Hideous Kinky has triggered a rush to Morocco. Guide-book writer Barnaby Rogerson offers the latest insider advice



that migrates to its own discordant calendar, the English have taken to visiting Morocco in February and March. These are the very months that the country is considered to be off sea-

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son by the rest of Europe. The relish with which we tackle the prospect of a bit of weather is our last remaining national characteristic, transcending the divisions of class, age, race and fashionable intelligence. The chance of being delayed by the odd flash flood in a desert wadi, or by a snowstorm at a pass in the High Atlas mountains, excites rather than diminishes

This year the English season will be even more pronounced due to the release of Hideous Kinky, Esther Freud's warm and funny evocation of a hippy family in existential crisis in mid-Seventies tending that you have held nothing a visit to this city in the Thirties.

passion for all things Moroccan, starting, of course, with its men.

It is also "my season". I get invited to tea, to dinner, and get charmed on the telephone by a spreading nexus of friends of friends who want to talk their Moroccan holiday plans through with me. It is flattering to be wanted. They want routes; they want restaurants; they want hotels; they want a three-week forecast on the weather; they want telephone numbers.

So I talk numbers - my numbers. "Look at page 528 for the Palais Salam", "look at page 175 for the Mahdi in the mountains". It is a sad and obvious attempt to boost the sales of my guide and history books. But they want more. They want special things: yet unwritten tips; unknown restaurants; and undis-

t is, as they say in Morocco, Marrakech, that has been made back. You must produce a plum: one the "English Season". Like into a movie. Kate Winslet, who juicy bit of intimate travel advice famous but seedy restaurant, and is an Italian prince - or if he isn't, he House, has been disappointing visplays the mother, is set to revive our offered up in a husbed tone; a was run by the ex-cook of the Glaoui could be. In the hotel hall there whispered piece of "for your ears only" confidence.

It is an easy task. By their nature. guidebooks are already out of date by the time they are printed. Suchand-such a hotel has closed or opened while restaurants change with the wind, or the chef. In the words of Saki, "she was a good cook as cooks go, and as good cooks go she went". So here it is: the inside track on Morocco during the last 12 months.

One new but gorgeous small hotel to report is in a converted courtyard townhouse deep within the old walled city of Marrakech. La Maison Arabe is reclusive but fairly easy to find on your second or third attempt. It stands on one of the alleys opposite the great 16th-century Bab Doukalla Mosque. It is as covered ruins. It is no good pre-removed from the tourist throng as

During my childhood it was a vated by Fabrizio Ruspoli. Fabrizio Paul Bowles' novel The Spider's Pasha, who either cooked beautifully or not at all. On one such latter occasion, I remember, as an impressionable teenager, eating a candle-lit cheese omelette in a magnificent, dark, cold dining room huddled beside an enormous bronze charcoal burner. I have never really recovered from the experience and have been searching for uncom-

fortable grandeur ever since. The old chef needed to drink to chase away the memories of a morning outside the Bab Doukalla in 1957. The chief henchman of the fallen Pasha had been dragged through the streets, rubber ringed, and was then burned alive on the rubbish dump. The mob's vengeance even extended to the Pasha's fleet of

motor cars. The restaurant was closed on my next visit and now some 20 years

hangs a portrait of his grandfather. Edmondo, outdoing any mere Gainsborough boy in the elegance of his ruffs and lace. Ruspoli is, in any case, part of the

expatriate landscape: his grandmother was a redoubtable figure in Tangier's highly competitive society; his aunt kept wolfhounds on her farm in the Ourika valley, and all the great restaurants nearby, such as Charles de Poso's Villa Rosa, seem

to be run by his devoted friends.

La Maison Arabe has just 11 rooms and serves no meals, aside from breakfast and tea. It has no pool but instead boasts a succession of elegant, well-connected guests.

The only other major event in the Moroccan hotel world has been the sale and closure of the celebrated Palais Jamai Hotel in Fez for a much-needed renovation. This once later, it has been beautifully reno- acclaimed hotel, the unsung star of

old palace garden that were not destroyed when they built the swimming pool.

The central role of the Palais Jamai has anyway been usurped by such places as the newly opened La Maison Bleue. This, the 100-year-old townhouse of a distinguished old Fassi family, the El Abbadi's, has become an opulent courtyard restaurant where the food has won plaudits even from the fastidious locals. The upstairs, its corridors lined with old lawbooks and leatherbound commentaries, has been converted into three suites, each complete with dressing rooms, a sitting room and cavernous bathrooms. Its position, just off Place de l'Istiqlal, one of the centres for the evening paseo, and opposite the

Museum, could hardly be bettered. From the cafe on the rooftop you owners will cherish the splendid old roofs of the three component cities dining room and the remnants of the of medieval Fes. It stands on the edge of the 13th-century walled quarter of Fez el Jedid, within five minutes walk of the Bab Bourieloud gate into the ancient alleys of Fes el Bali. It is owned and managed by Mehdi el Abbadi, the grandson of the

> La Maison Arabe, 1 Derb Assehbe, Bab Doukkala, Marrakech. For a reservation speak to Nabila Dakir. tel 00 212 4 39 12 33, fox 00 212 4 44 37 15. Prices are between a £120-200 for a room.

Cadi, the Muslim judge, who first

built the house.

La Maison Bleue, 2 Place de l'Istiqlal, Batha, 30,000 Fes, tel and fax 00 212 5 74 18 43. Prices start at £150.

Barnaby Rogerson is the author of the Cadogan Guide to Morocco walled garden of the Batha Palace

Trouble spots: Vietnamese border crossings. "My wife and I have just returned from a tailor-made package, which was intended to give us a taste of southern China and Vietnam using the recently restored rail link between Kunming and Hanoi. When we arrived at Hekou, the Chinese border town, the customs police indicated in pidgin English that our Vietnam visas were no good. The visas had been obtained months in advance, via our British travel agent, from the Vietnamese Embassy in London.

"The border police said that they were not valid and a \$400 (£250) fine would sort the problem out. Needless to say, we were outraged by such a large published yesterday, price £2.80; demand and sat tight in our seats refusing to give any money. I asked to telephone the British mission in Hanoi, but was refused amidst a lot of laughter by the police officers. After considerable protests, I was taken from the train, cover, to the 10 best tales of leaving my wife alone with five

managed to reduce the 'fine' to elevenses on Monday, 8 Feb.

\$200. With time running out, I reluctantly agreed to pay it, but asked for a receipt. This request caused so much anger that I was told I would be arrested and locked up.
"I rejoined the train a few

minutes before departure, finding my wife distressed, having experienced a degrading and humiliating search of our clothing. On arrival in Hanoi, we spent the next day trying to get our money back. Eventually the cash was refunded by local agents, yet much of our leisure time was lost whilst writing reports for everybody!" Mike and Anne Reynolds, Kent

This report is from the new edition of Wanderlust magazine, subscriptions: 01753 620426.

The new edition offers a free passport cover (for the Eurostyle document). Wanderlust has teamed up with The Independent to offer a free copy of the magazine, plus a passport tricky/trivial border crossings. Send your entry to: Passport, "Eventually I was allowed to Travel Desk, "The Indepentelephone the travel agent's dent', One Canada Square, representative in Saigon, who London E145DL, to arrive by

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SOMETHING TO DECLARE

NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

Bargain of the week: Italy, Denmark or Germany for £60. The winter-fares war on air routes to Europe intensifies next week when Go (0845 60 54321) launches a five-day seat sale. From 7am next Monday until 11pm on Friday 5 February the British Airways offshoot is cutting prices on all its routes.

Fares from Stansted to Milan. Venice. Copenhagen and Munich are set at £60 return. Tickets to Rome, Lisbon and Bologna cost

£70, while Edinburgh is £40. The deal applies for travel from 15 February to 25 March. Travel is barred on Fridays and Sundays. A two-night minimum stay is required.

True or faise: The only way to reach South America's leading tourist attraction is on foot or aboard a Russian-built helicopter?

For the next fortnight, at least, unfortunately true. The railway line from the city of Cuzco to the ancient Inca city of Machu Picchu was blocked

ing to the historic site along the Inca Trail is still possible, but latest reports say it is very crowded. The alternative is a shuttle service operated by a single ex-Soviet helicopter, for a fare of around £100 return. The track is unlikely to be repaired for another two weeks.

this week by a landslide. Walk-

plane will have to wait for me." From Monday onwards, this will no longer work for British Airways passengers. You could be denied boarding and made to wait for the next available plane. International aviation rules

A likely story: "My bag's checked in, so the

insist that travellers must accompany their luggage, and aircraft captains are not permitted to depart until all passengers with checked-in bags are on board. But computerised

baggage systems are becoming more sophisticated, making it easier for airlines to offload the luggage of tardy passengers. British Airways has instituted a rule saying all passengers must be at the boarding gate at least 10 minutes before departure. Any later, and staff will use the Baggage Reconciliation System to remove your

luggage from the aircraft hold. You will be given a seat on the next flight, if space is available; for some destinations, the wait could be a week.

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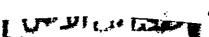
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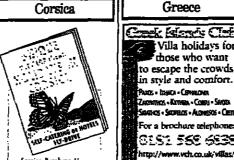
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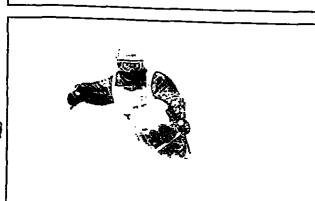
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THE WEEKEND REVIEW









Showing us how it's done: paralympic athletes, clockwise from main picture, Alain Margaretez, Jonathan Morris, Brian Harding and Steve Shaw

Ian Martin

Freedom of the slopes

If you see someone zooming down the piste on what looks like a chair on skis, don't be alarmed. It's just one of the many 'adaptive' skiers enjoying themselves. By Stephen Wood

Darke at the apartment in which she was staying at Avoriaz, in the Portes du Soleil ski area. It was late afternoon, and the place seemed to be full of large Scottish men washing, cooking and making phone calls. (Maybe it was just that they

"I've had a few nightmare experiences in the came obvious that it couldn't survive". So he insurance, ski-lifts - and on the journey to and Alps," she said. "I've stayed in places that had lots of steps and narrow doors, where I've had to drag myself around on wet slushy floors. It's great to be in accommodation like this."

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Darke broke her back in a climbing accident in 1993, and was paralysed from the chest down. Having skied for just a couple of days before the accident, she took it up seriously afterwards because it was the best way of getting around in the mountains.

The reason she chose Avoriaz for this, her seventh skiing trip, was that it is one of the three Alpine resorts featured in a new adaptive-skiing programme for skiers with physical disabilities. The holidays are organised by the tour operator Erna Low in conjunction with the retailer Snow + Rock, which provides specialised ski equipment. In most cases, the apparatus used is a sit-ski: a sort of bucket seat mounted on one or two skis, which the skier steers with the help of short poles fitted with skids at the

Erna Low - which has been selling skiing holidays for 67 years – launched the programme as a result of hiring Jon Lind as a sales executive for the 1997/8 season. Lind. a 29-year-old Londoner, had been a ski rep and instructor for several years when a cousin invited him to join a group of skiers she was taking to Switzerland for the Back-Up Trust, which organises sports activities for people with spinal cord injuries.

ust after Christmas, I met Karen After teaching able-bodied holiday-makers, Lind found it "exciting to be with people who were so motivated; they weren't holidaying but facing a challenge, and getting satisfaction from their achievements".

The experience led him to set up a company with a friend who had suffered a spinal inwere moving around a lot - she told me later that jury. It organised adrenaline sports trips for weren't Scottish.) But despite the cramped as the company was called, was under-fi-

skiing brochure, Avoriaz, La Plagne and Tignes, all have schools for disabled skiers. This means not only that specialist tuition is available, but also that the lift staff, for example, are familiar with the sit-ski.

That gave the programme a start; still, there were innumerable problems to be solved both there were only three of them, and that two people with physical disabilities. But New Trax, in the resorts - wheelchair access to ski-in, skiout apartments land, particularly, to their bath-

> After teaching able-bodied holiday-makers, Lind found it 'exciting to be with people who were so motivated; they weren't holidaying but facing a challenge, and getting satisfaction from their achievements'

went back to working as a ski rep, and then spent several months on the dole before applying for the sales job at Erna Low.

His interest in adaptive skiing (the term avoids the stigma of "disability", and refers to the specially adapted equipment) came up in the interview - and afterwards, when he started work. Erna Low's managing director, Joanna Yellowlees-Bound, says that "Jon is very passionate about the whole thing, and I'm the sort of person who gets enthusiastic very easily". Soon, they were discussing an adaptive skiing programme. "A small company like ours can be very flexible," says Yellowlees-Bound, "so if someone comes up with a good idea that's not too expensive, we can pursue it. Also, the programme could be linked to resorts with which we already

from Britain. Lind had to plot a complex route through Geneva airport, which is something of an obstacle course for wheelchair users, and to take into account the fact that not all Eurostar trains stop at platforms adjacent to the station

Problems such as these are of special importance to the programme because, exceptionally, it is aimed at disabled skiers who want to travel independently, Back-Up and other organisations take groups of disabled people to resorts; but for those who - like Karen Darke - want to go skiing with their friends, Erna Low provides a unique service, at no extra cost.

Indeed the adaptive skiing "brochure" is hardly that: it offers specialist information but all clients - whether disabled or not - book through the company's standard French Alps brochure,

The three resorts in the Erna Low adaptive at the same price (although each adaptive skier and one helper get a 50 per cent discount on skilift passes from the resorts).

For adaptive skiers going to Avoriaz, there is an added incentive: this season Erna Low em ployed as its resort rep a friend of Lind's, An drew Moore, an experienced adaptive-ski instructor who is himself a wheelchair user.

"His basic job is to check reservations, receive clients and sort out their problems," says Lind. But for the new programme it's things go smoothly, and safely.

"So I wanted Andrew to go through a security brief with the adaptive skiers, talking them through the lifts and so on. Some of them may not speak a word of French, and they need to know what to say, for example, when they are disembarking from a lift. That's a basic safety requirement."

(Unfortunately, Moore injured his shoulder and has had to return to Britain for physiotherapy; but he will be back in Avoriaz for the programme's busiest period, when the majority of this season's 26 adaptive-skiing clients will be holidaying in the Alps.)

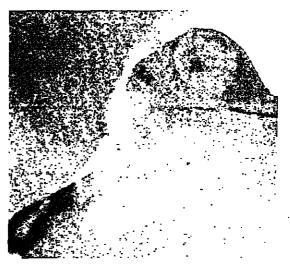
Organising the programme is highly labour-intensive: Lind is busy with his sales job during the day, and works on the adaptive skiing programme ("it takes a lot of time, a lot of letters") in the evenings and at weekends.

Yellowlees-Bound says of the programme that she has "no hopes for it commercially. I will be pleased if, after the first few years, it doesn't make a loss. But after 15 years selling holidays, it's nice to put something back into skiing."

I spoke to Karen Darke again last week. She is a 29-year-old who works as a geologist in Aberdeen. How, I asked, did she look back on the trip? It was "a real pleasure", she said, "to be so independent".

For details of the adaptive skiing programme. contact Jon Lind on 0171-584 2841

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It's never too late to learn

Have the joys of skiing passed you by for ever? Roger Mills says it ain't necessarily so

Faced with a slope, my instinct

was to lean back. But if you lean

away from the slope when you

are on skis, your legs shoot from

lean forward is the trick,

instantly producing a sense of

stability. But try getting your

body to do that on day one.

SKIING USED to seem to me a bit like playing a musical instrument. If you wanted to do it you had to start young. Having reached the second half of my thirties without having got going, it never occurred to me to think about trying. Then, at the ripe old age of 38, I married someone who could ski rather well, and a year later I was heading for Passo Rolle, a small

resort in the Italian Dolomites. I had heard that ski resorts were full of distressingly able five-year-olds and, even though there was a handful of other anxious-looking oldie begindiscomfort didn't seem likely to make the self-consciousness any easier. But within half an hour, the problems of staying upright were taking up all the mental capacity I had available.



Skiing lessons aren't just for children

how fundamentally unnatural the physical experience of skiing would seem at first. Take ners on the slopes, sharing the turning corners. Like most people, my feelings about cornering were based on being on a bicycle, where, if you lean to the left, you go to the left. Nothing so simple for the ski world. On skis, when you lean to the left What I wasn't expecting was you go to the right.

"Adults think too much." says Fiona Coats, an instructor who runs one of the ski schools at Aviemore. "Teaching children is easy because they just copy what you do without really realising it. With older people you can see them concentrating too hard, trying to grasp the technique intellectually."

Chilling out is all very well, but skiing, at the very beginning, can be quite alarming. The abiding image I have of my first day is of standing at the top Then there is the question of of the nursery slope feeling what to do on a steep slope. both distinctly uneasy, and that I was rather pathetic to be feeling distinctly uneasy.

So when, exactly, does the fun start? It didn't take long to under you. Making yourself acquire a degree of competence. Unless you are critically lacking in co-ordination, almost anyone, however old, is getting down the nursery slopes com-

fortably after four or five days. Another week and you're weaving past stricken beginners and wondering if it's time you went back to the hire shop to get your equipment upgraded. "Getting fit before you start

helps enormously," says Fiona Coats. "Many people come here having done no exercise at all, thinking that skiing is just ef fortlessly gliding downhill."

Coats recommends running, cycling or any exercise that gets the legs moving. Another, personal tip, is going for one-to-one tuition in the early days. It may be more expensive but it will have you on your feet (and staying on them) much sooner.

If you are wondering how many years you'll get out of it if you start at 40, remember that in their downhill racing competitions, the Norwegians have an over-80s category.

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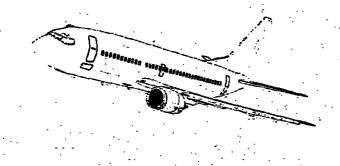
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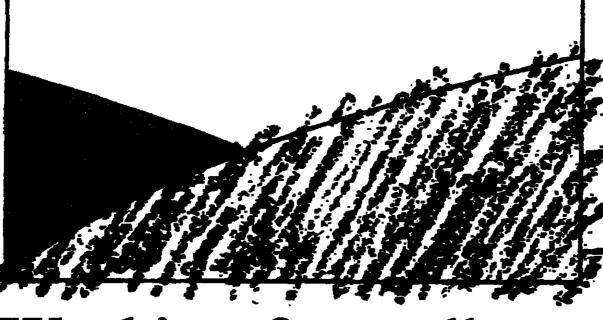
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resh air - that's what Dorset is best for, especially near the coastal town of Christchurch. The idly curious can browse the shops, visit the Red House Museum. take afternoon tea, and have their photographs taken beside the town ducking stool, or in the stocks beneath the castle mound. But for those of us with the legs and lungs for a hearty stroll, it is best to get out of Christchurch itself and on to its watery margins.

The Dorset town that used to be in Hampshire and used to be called Twynham is now a quiet neighbour of bustling Bournemouth. It sits at the confluence of the Avon and Stour rivers, which flow into a harbour that in turn flows with a fierce current into Christchurch Bay, slap bang opposite The Needles at the westernmost tip of the Isle of Wight, on the other side of the Solent.

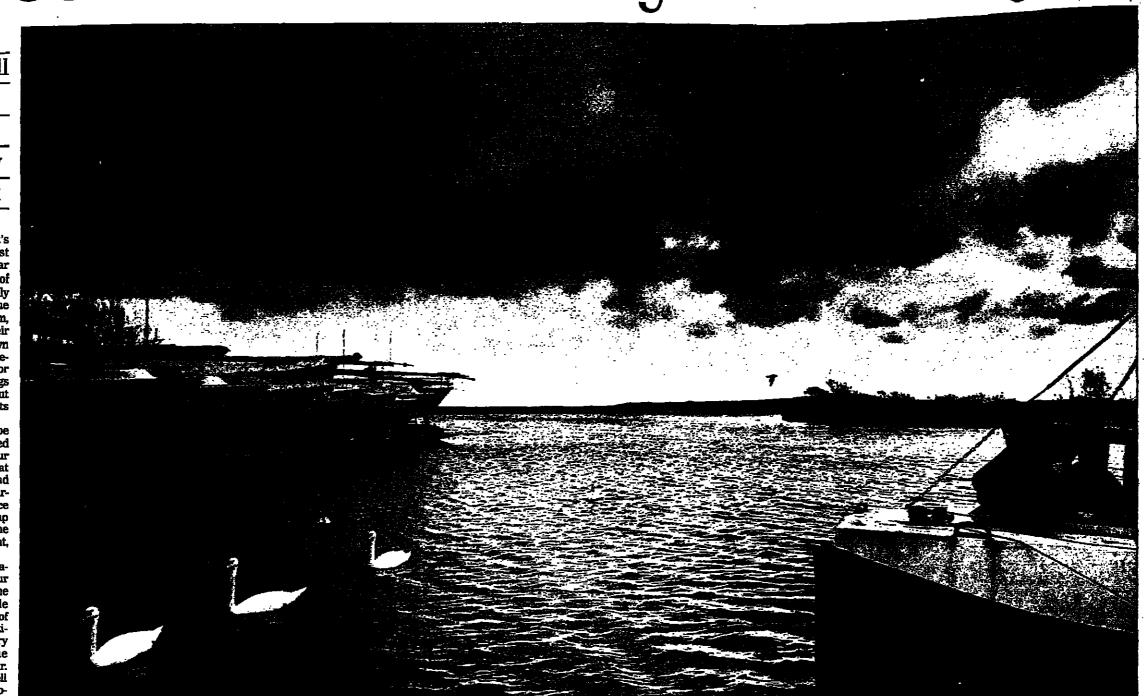
Christchurch's beautiful situation is perfect for improving your health. Stand at the quay fend off the over-familiar swans and decide which way to go around a circuit of the harbour. I favour the anticlockwise route. Cross over by ferry to the village of Wick on the Bournemouth side of the Stour. From here you can pick up the well - signposted Stour Valley Way out towards Hengistbury Head.

Hengistbury, excavated by archaeologists as a settlement in the Iron and Bronze Ages, is now a nature reserve. The view at the top of this sandy hill is spectacular. Look back along the Dorset coast to the apartment blocks of Bournemouth and beyond to the Isle of Purbeck. Turn right to look down on Christchurch harbour and how it is almost closed up, pincer-like, by the spit of land that pushes out of the end of the Head.

The shallow harbour is ideal for novice sailors, sailboarders and potterers in small craft. The view of the 900-year-old Priory Church which gives the town its name is only spoilt by a development of marine houses, all white wood and showy atriums, at the feet of the handsome Norman and Perpendicular grey mass of the priory.

you get back to the town. It has the feel of a small cathedral inside and houses some curious attractions, such as the Miraculous Beam and the Loft Museum. This is not, as my son was disappointed to learn, a museum about lofts, but a room over the lady chapel that used to be a school for novice monks; it now holds information about the Priory. The same son was also disap-

Fresh but definitely not flirty



Christchurch's shallow harbour - ideal for novice sailors, sailboarders and potterers in small craft, as long as they steer clear of the over-familiar swans

pointed to learn that he wasn't allowed to climb the 176 steps to the top of the tower. "You have to be over 10," I told him. He went off instead and performed aerial tricks with his Yo-Yo frighteningly close to some delicate medieval carvings.

When you come down the path off

Hengistbury Head, approaching the may like to know that these are in here on this narrow strip of sand. A entrance to the harbour and roughly at the half-way point in the walk, you set foot on a narrow spit of beach. A huddle of huts occupies the sand, some facing in towards Christchurch and others looking out at The Needles. Aficionados of beach huts

families and have kitchens. With some pretension you could refer to them as "chalets". I am told by one hands for more than £25,000 each. There's a little community out

the de luxe category: they sleep land train, the Noddy Train, not only provides pleasure rides for summer visitors, but operates all year to transport hut dwellers back of their owners that they change to the car park on the Bournemouth side of the harbour. Given the right weather, after a day on the sand I

train journeys of the world.

To get across the harbour entrance you have to take a ferry from opposite the beach cafe. To complete the anti-clockwise circuit go over the short distance to Haven Quay at Mudeford, where you can

at the pub. However, a direct return to Christchurch by ferry can be made from the same jetty. Take a leisurely putter back in a wooden motor launch to the priory, looking out for heron and other birds lurking in the reeds of the river Stour. Crossing to Haven Quay means

buy fresh seafood and have a drink

that you get to walk more through residential streets in Mudeford than through marshland. But it is worth going out on to Stanpit Marsh, another nature reserve. From here you have a fair trudge back into Christchurch, but there are several good pubs for food along the way.

With small children, the boat journey back up the river is a treat. On a warm weekend the ferry a meanders past waving sailors in all sizes of craft. Drift on past the priory stop and alight at the end of the route at Tuckton Tea Gardens. During the summer (which officially begins hereabouts at Easter) you can sit back next to a putting green in a restful, old-fashioned, typically English kind of riverside setting.

Christchurch tourist information:

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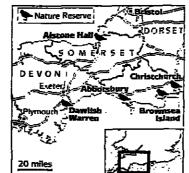
warblers and nightjars. Magnificent views over the Avon valley (a Site of Special Scientific Interest), the Isle of Wight. Bournemouth and - on a clear day - right up to the Purbeck hills. Daily public access at any time. Entrance free.

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3. Abbotsbury Swannery New Barn Road, Abbotsbury, Dorset, 01305 871858 Six-hundred-vear-old swannery

1pm and 2pm-5pm.



billed as a paradise for nature enthusiasts. Visitors can walk among free-flying mute swans or

end of May until the end of June. Restaurant, gift shop, audiovisual show, shire horse and cart rides. Open 14 March-29 October daily, 10am-6pm.

4. Alstone Wildlife Park Somerset. 01278 782405 Hands-on experience of a herd of 20 red deer, a hand-reared Mongolian camel, llamas, emus. kune-kune pigs, rheas and unusual goats. Entrance: £2.75 for adults, £1.75 for children and £2.50 for senior citizens. Open 2 April-31 October daily, 10am-6pm.

watch as they hatch, between the 5. Brownsea Island 01202 707744 Known as the "getaway place" by

> red squirrel. Wading birds flock to the lagoon and there are 500 acres of woodland walks: Ferries leave every half hour from Poole and Sandbanks and take 20 mins and 10 mins respectively. There is a Vational Trust entrance fee of £2.50 for adults. £1.30 for children and £6.30 for families. Island open from 27 March-3 October daily, 10am-5pm and in July and August until 6pm. HUGH RIDDELL

locals, this picturesque island is

one of the last homes of the rare

Take a walk on the quintessentially English side

Undulating countryside, Norman churches and views to ancient chalk horses are among the highlights of a Cotswolds winter walk. By David Viner

stone is honey-coloured, villages nestle, everything is quintessential. But winter adds a twist to this idyll. And the best way to appreciate this is by walking through the almost impossibly lovely landscape.

This bridleway walk in a circuit of four villages (and a fifth if you fancy) takes you right into the heart of the Cotswolds. The landscape gently undulates, the views are extensive, and the villages are some of the most attractive in England.

The churches are built almost entirely of local stone, originally Norman but with lots of Perpendicular rebuilding, and another (often less popular) refurbishment in Victorian times. A strong west tower, quiet, villagey interiors and tidy graveyards complete the picture. And thankfully they are mostly open during the day.

Start in Cold Aston, or Aston Blank if you prefer: the road signs can't make up their minds and give you both. Why Cold? No doubt a reference to Cotswold winters up here

at 700ft above sea level. The church at Cold Aston, like the one in neighbouring Notgrove, has no east window, which makes one wonder why. Before you leave St Andrew's, take the time to find the grave of the Rev James Hughes, vicar of three churches for 27 years, and proud owner of no fewer than 27 cats. Two stand watch over his tombstone.

Go west from the village for a mile. Beyond the last house, divert left into Long Ash Piece, a splendid brake of trees in a double avenue, forming a half-mile-long wind south. And they are mostly beech, another typical Cotswold feature.

Turn right and left at the end and cross the field obliquely (follow bridleway signs, not footpath signs, throughout this walk) with a lovely view of Notgrove village across the smail valley.

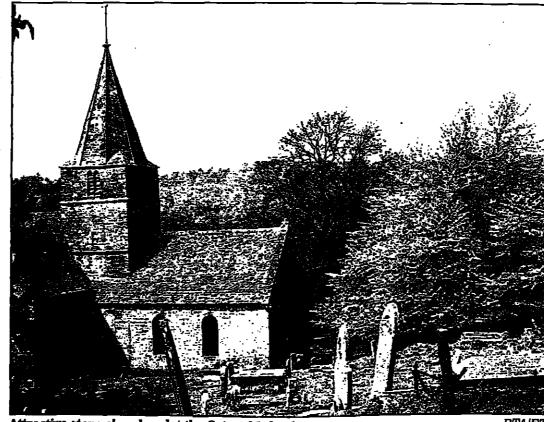
At the lane, turn left and follow round to the church of St Bartholomew. Visiting Notgrove, an estate village, gives the feeling of trespassing in somebody's front garden. The church, standing next to the manor-house, is a small gem. Its guide notes call it a "church of precious things" to which the 20th century has contributed. In place of the missing east window is a large tapestry of the village, created over a period of 11 years by the lord of the manor and villagers together.

Walk up the lane, past the drive to the manor and beyond the cricket pitch. At the junction, turn left and almost immediately right into a lane heading westwards.

The view across the dry valley is one of large open fields, scattered barns, clumps of woodland (coverts and brakes) and distant views to the next village on the skyline, an experience that is repeated through-

History is often perpetuated in these field and covert names. Farmers and landowners now dead and gone have their names recorded (Rixon's Covert) or their family re-

membered (Judith Grove). Past Kitehill Barn, follow the path down into the valley bottom. Here there is the option of an additional route to take in Salperton - in



Attractive stone churches dot the Cotswolds landscape

which case turn right through the gate beside the ash tree and then left to walk up the middle of the large field to Farhill Farm. Follow the lane past Poison Meadow, and continue round to join the drive sweeping up to Salperton Park (private, no access). The tiny church of All Saints stands almost in the garden; follow

Thereafter, retrace your steps into Church Cover and turn right to follow the bridleway southwards alongside Hazleton Grove into Hazleton village, to rejoin the main walk.

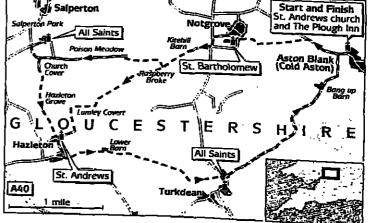
Otherwise, go straight over at the bottom and climb the bank along the field boundary past Raspberry Brake. At the bridleway sign, divert obliquely left across the field to

∂ Ø 0 •

cross another path at the junction of three large fields on the crest of the hill. The views from here are the hest on the walk - on a clear day you can see easily across to the Uffington White Horse on the Ridgeway to the south.

Drop down to the field edge and then down the bank into another dry valley. Turn right here, enjoying

Œ,



some rare unimproved grassland on the steep field banks opposite Lumley Covert. At the road to the new farmhouse built up the bank, follow round to the left and up the track to enter Hazleton village, and visit St Andrew's church.

The route continues down the lane into the dip. Ignore two turns right and take the left turn, keeping straight on beyond the "unsuitable for motors" sign. Here begins another gentle drop into another valley, the road down to the farm buildings at Lower Barn becoming a stony track into the bottom.

Through the gate, turn right and enjoy for perhaps half a mile the best Cotswold valley of the walk - known locally as the "hidden valley". Up the bank to the gate and thence up to join the road at Manor Farm buildings at Turkdean.

Turn right here and along the village street to the church (another All Saints), set in a large churchyard Read the report bravely posted up by an earlier vicar on the obliteration of some of the church's wall paintings in a previous regime.

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Retrace your steps back up the village, and at the manor on the corner of the small green, turn right into another "unsuitable" bridleway for a superb mile-long walk across the fields back to Cold Aston.

On the way, have a smile at Bang Up Barn, once an isolated field barn and cottage. The barn has gone but the rebuilt cottage is now much more sophisticated and offers B&B. At the road once again, turn right into the village.

The walk is about eight miles; add two for the Salperton loop. Cold Aston is one mile off the A129. Park in the village, which has the only

pub on the walk, the Plough Inn Use OS Pathfinder maps 1067 & 1090 and Outdoor Leisure 45: THE WEEKEND REVIEW

Islanders who sing with one voice

Maybe it's because they have nothing else to do, but the Faroese are the world's greatest musical magpies. By Cleo Paskal

with messianic glee. She has that sleek-tothe-point-of-underfed. gazelle look common to a generation of post-Celine chanteuses. She briefly basks in the adulation wafting up from the crowd. Then, gesturing towards the choir of 30 or so singers already tiered at the back of the stage, she proudly proclaims: "United Voices is in the House!"

And the crowd goes wild. Woodstock revisited? Well, er, no. A Faroese church choir.

If there's one thing the Faroese take more seriously than football, it's music. Give 'em half a chance and they'll start to croon. Give 'em a whole chance and a guitar will appear out of nowhere. There are church choirs, school choirs, men's replaced on stage by what is unchoirs, town choirs, countless bands and even a full orchestra. All in a country of fewer than 44,000 people.

Some say it is because the main cultural anchor of the Faroese is the Ring Dance, a mesmerising circle dance that dates from the Middle Ages. The dance can last for days and is accompanied by a cappella ballads that spin tales of ancient battles and love.

Once upon a time, much of western Europe danced the Ring Dance, but now the only place where the ghosts of the ballads come back to life is this tiny, windswept outpost in

the North Atlantic. Or maybe they sing so much because there's really not much

else to do out here. sing their hearts out - in any style imaginable, and in every nook and throb, performing in a rock band cranny of their absurdly remote islands. They'll sing rock in beer clubs, blues in church, heavy metal in sports halls and just about anything at private parties.

The big annual showcase of home-spawned talent is the Faroe Islands' Jazz, Folk and Blues Festival. All the main currents of Faroese

youth culture are represented. The big excitement this year revolved around United Voices. You see, the Faroese also take their religion very seriously (they have a lot of spare time). Around 25 per cent

ish side

igrid bounds on-stage the endlessly schisming fundamentalist Christian sects. And this year, some of the youth representing choirs from differing sects put their religious differences aside to form United Voices. This union was additionally blessed by getting Signid, a veritable Faroese mega-star - by virtue of being in a Norwegian girl band - to front it.

A capacity crowd turned out to see the group's inaugural show, an upbeat "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" spectacular. Sigrid's slinky dress alone put the put the "Ya!" back in "Halleluya!" and played its part in converting at least half of the audience. Think of the blonde girl from Abba doing gospel.

United Voice's last "Let Us Magnify Him. For He's Holy, Holy" had barely faded away when they were questionably the best goth-rapmetal-funk band the Faroes ever produced (if only by lack of competition). MC Har is made up of the Bad Boys of Faroese popular music. Both of them. They are surrounded by an anarcho-collective of surprisingly talented musicians and singers that will do things such as play a beautiful trumpet solo in the midst of a thumping ode to sperm.

Ah, youth today. That Faroese knack of taking a standard form of music, from gospel to metal, and tweaking it just so to give it that special North Atlantic feel was superbly demonstrated on the last day of the festival by a local boy, Teitur Lassen.

Teitur, in his early twenties, had made a David Cassidy-esque name for himself as a Faroese teen heartcalled Mark No Limits.

Then he went off to Denmark, and strange things happen there. He reemerged at the Festival as a mature, smoky-voiced jazz singer, conjuring up ghosts of Duke Ellington and Harlem and Satchmo. But, being Faroese, he found that wasn't enough. He had to give it that something extra. So he did a show where he set the words of classic Faroese poems to New York jazz riffs. And it

It may be the Ring Dance, it may be the lack of good television, it may of the population belongs to one of be the endless rounds of multi-



Something in the air: is it the sheer beauty of the place, or the lack of good television that makes the Faroese want to sing?

generational house parties, it may even be all the time they spend rearing sheep.

Whatever it is, it has produced a small corner of the world where people have the time and the skill to mix and meld the whole gamut of Western musical tradition, from medieval chants to Metallica. The Faroese can make gospel sexy, metal melodic and jazz even more poetic. And that's just this year's concoctions.

Musical innovation is alive and well and living in the Faroe Islands. Who would have thought it?

It is pretty hard to avoid live music in the Faroe Islands. Organised events such as the Festival usually take place in the summer and autumn. This autumn, Frandur, one of the best-known bands in the Faroes, are to perform the country's first rock opera with the Faroese Symphony Orchestra.

If you can't wait until then, Mark No Limits and another popular Faroese rock band, KJØLAR, both have CDs out. MC Har not only have a CD; they have also set up their own website at www.qza.dk

THE SUMMER OF 69, HOME COUNTIES STYLE

THE FAROES are 30 years too late; the future of music was sealed in the summer of 1969 though not at the celebrated Woodstock festival. Instead, southern England was the venue for a noisy revolution. Emily (and 15.000 others) saw Pink Floyd play Plumpton, Dylan took a ferry cross the Solent to the Isle of Wight, and the Stones spent the afternoon together in London's Hyde Park with an audience equivalent to three times the

population of the Faroes. In 1999, the children of those dazed hippies in the audience can set the controls for the heart. of the Home Counties and retrace the trail of joss sticks and inadequate latrines of that glorious July and August.

Harold Wilson's Labour government assiduously courted the newly enfranchised youth vote. After showering the Beatles with MBEs and starting up Radio I, the government celebrated

Britpop Mk1 by giving the run of a royal park to the Rolling Stones.

The Stones' Hyde Park gig took place on 5 July, the weekend after one of the first premature deaths of a rock great - their former guitarist, Brian Jones. Mick Jagger quoted Shelley and released thousands of white butterflies in his memory. Then the windows of Apsley House and the Hilton rattled to the band's new hit, "Honky Tonk Woman".

Jones died from the lethal rock combo of drink, drugs and diving into a swimming-pool at his East Sussex farm. Had he lived, he would have needed only to stride down the lane to the summer's next big event, at Piumpton racecourse.

Despite what promoter Barry Moore described as "hassles with Tory MPs and High Court injunctions", he booked The Who, The Nice and Pink Floyd. The programme of the Ninth Jazz, Pop, Ballads and Blues Festival

hints that its clientele was not to the taste of other Home Counties communities: "Previously at

Windsor and Sunbury", it reads. Because trains brought the festival-goers straight to the course, few of them ventured a mile or two south to the village of Plumpton, at the foot of the South Downs. They could have visited the Saxon church, then continued to the beautiful old county town of Lewes.

Most opted instead for the daytime vision of Ditchling Beacon rising above the haze of marijuana smoke ("Rolling tobaccos and skins will be available in the Village area". promised the programme), and the night-time spectacle of Keith Emerson destroying his Hammond organ during a particularly vigorous version of "America". At a time when half a million people were making their way to Yasgur's Farm in upstate

New York for Woodstock, 15,000

festival-goers in Britain were being urged that "provision of dishwashing facilities is difficult and expensive, so bring your own cutlery and get sixpence off the price of your meal".

The summer was sealed on the last weekend of August. When the people of Freshwater Bay learned of plans for the Wight Festival of Music, they probably envisaged a genteel affair like the one that begins next Friday, the Cheltenham Folk Festival. After all, that nice Bob Dylan who wrote "Blowin' in the Wind" was booked to be there.

But the times they were a'changin': Bob bobbed up with The Band, and blew away much of the western half of the Isle of Wight – or Isle of Delight, as Warner Bros called it. The mantle of rock had passed from Woodstock to Wight. Southern England would never be quite the same again.

SIMON CALDER

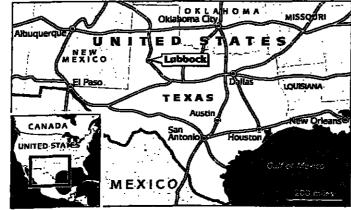
The day the music died

Forty years ago this week Buddy Holly died in a plane crash. Andy Bull visits the Texan home town of one of rock'n'roll's greatest innovators

FOR MANY years Lubbock was in denial about Buddy Holly, its most famous son. Never mind that to the rest of the world he was one of the the most innovative and creative of rock's first generation of performers, and a powerful formulative influence on everyone from the Beatles down. In Lubbock you didn't mention his name in polite company. The reason being that this is the Bible belt, and in these parts rock'n'roll has always been seen as the devil's music.

But finally, Lubbock's great and good have realised that Holly is about the only thing they have going for them in terms of attracting visitors to this strange town, isolated as it is on the high windy planes of the Texas panhandle, swaddled in a sea of cotton. There is now an established Holly-tour itinerary.

The house where Holly lived in 1957 when "That'll Be the Day" was a hit still stands at 1305 37th Street. His alma mater, JT Hutchinson Junior High School (3102 Canton Ave), has a display of mementoes of him. To the north of town, just off Avenue A at 10th Street, and beyond the cattle market, is the Fair Park Coliseum, where Buddy Holly and the Crickets were at the bottom of bills headed by Elvis Presley and Bill Haley and the Comets. On the same side of town, the Buddy Holly Recreation Area, a



landscaped park, is also popular with fans, who pose for photos beside the sign (N University Ave).

The radio station (call sign KRLB), on which Buddy got a spot of his own on Sunday afternoons, is at 6602 Martin Luther King Jr Drive, on the southern edge of town. The most visible tribute to Buddy Holly is outside the Civic Centre, (8th St and Avenue Q), in the shape of an aft 6in bronze of the singer, holding a guitar and standing in the middle of a raised circular flower bed.

"Buddy Holly," the inscription reads, "contributed to the musical heritage of not only West Texas, but the entire world." Around the

stone wall enclosing the flower bed are plaques dedicated to 14 other musicians with local links, including Roy Orbison and Waylon Jennings, who narrowly missed being on the flight on which Holly and two other rock and roll stars, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper, were killed. It happened on the bitterly cold night of 3 February 1959, while Buddy was on a gruelling tour of the mid-west. That night, he chartered a light plane to take him the 400 miles from Clear Lake, Iowa to the next gig.

At 1.50am the plane crashed in thick snow, killing all on board. More than 1,500 came to the funeral, at Lubbock's Tabernacle Baptist Church

(1911 34th St). Phil Everly of the Everly Brothers was a palibearer and there was a telegram from Elvis.

The gravestones of Buddy, his father Lawrence and mother Ella lie flush with the ground at the City of Lubbock Cemetery (2011 E 34th St), where the grass bakes in the heat, and the sprinklers hiss continually.

Buddy's stone is a rather kitsch affair, depicting a Fender guitar leaning against a Doric column. His surname reverts to the way the family has always spelt it: Holley. Sometimes there will be a sliver of something shiny protruding from the hard red soil. It will be a plectrum, placed there in homage by a fan.

To reach Lubbock, Flightbookers (0171-757 3000) quotes £325 on American Airlines via Dallas, for travel in February. In the first week of September each year the Budfest, a tribute to Buddy, is organised in the town. Details from Bill Griggs (Buddy Holly Memorial Society, Box 6123 Lubbock TX 79493). Lubbock Chamber of Commerce (1120 14th St, 001 806 761 7000) publishes a leaflet with details of Buddy Holly locations around town.

Adapted from 'Coast to Coast: A Rock Fan's US tour', by Andy Bull (Black Swan, £5.99)



Buddy Holly: Lubbock's most famous son

for the X-ray.

employee".

innocent but also reveals any drugs hidden within the body. Nobody -

guilty or otherwise - has plumped

North Dakota: A caller to a Burger

King in Fargo convinced the man-

ager that he was a police officer and

gave a description of a 17-year-old

female worker there. The manager

then obeyed instructions to stripsearch her for apparent theft. She

was innocent, the call was a hoax and a real policeman. Lieutenant

Scott Gilman, advises that "no man-

ager of any business should decide

it's necessary to strip-search any

GONE TO GLORY

Michigan: Seven workers at the

Independence Professional Fire-

works factory at Osseo cannot be

COOPED UP

Los Angeles: Jai Thomas arrived

with some friends for a \$3,000, three-

week holiday in America and the

identified after an explosion.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

COMPILED BY CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE HEADLINES

PARK AND RIDE

Australia: And you're certain that the fridge will work at the end of the year? The meltdown has begun in Melbourne. A two-hour Metcard travel ticket can, in fact, last several weeks, and somebody bought a \$2.20 ticket which expires on 6 Feb 2006.

OVER-REACTIONS

Singapore: Tay Seng has been fined \$1,000 for refusing to let pregnant Ting Sim out of his taxi after she vomited on the floor. She had then called her husband for help. When the couple were reunited on the pavement, they narrowly escaped Seng's reversing into them at speed, for which he was fined a further \$2,000 and banned from driving for six months. The taxi firm will no longer require his services. His defence claimed that it was all a misunderstanding: he was being gallant, and had not wanted Ting to walk through the vomit.

Egypt: A 24-year-old woman is in hospital after swallowing insecticide in protest against her mother's forbidding her to wear jeans.

Singapore: Although Soon Chew Fah was sleeping apart from her husband Chua Lian Seng, she was still annoyed to wake at one in the morning and find him naked behind the sitting-room sofa with their maid Suratin, whom she slapped. Suratin ran to her bedroom while Soon rang her sister and then her husband's grandmother to tell them of this outrage. While doing so, she saw Suratin open the kitchen window, but her shout of not to do anything silly was too late - the maid jumped to her death. It turns out that she and Chua had not had time to get much further than a massage.

REGNUM OCCUPARE

Finland: It is in better taste than dead Elvis at Wembley. Jukka Ammoudt, a professor at the University of Jyvaskyla, has already recorded two albums of the King's songs in Latin, and is now going for the big time: a single of "Blue Suede Shoes" "Esir Kus Za-gin") in ancient Sumerian, the cuneiform language of Babylonia which died out in 2,000 BC. An album will follow in the tain that Elvis would have relished

had big parties and drums and rattles, and the roots of rock may go back to man's earliest efforts to get a grip on life." One can only wonder how civilisation would have turned out if the Babylonians had been exposed to "Wooden Heart".

Rome: Beat-itude: the Pope is to release a CD and video in March to meet the Easter market. Abba Pater is not another tribute to the creators of "S.O.S." and "Waterloo" but a collection of his own compositions, prayers and chants in five languages, none of them Sumerian.

Florida: Victor Brancaccio was 16 .. autumn. Professor Ammondt is cer- when he stamped to death 81-yearold Mollie Frazier because she had

gar rap song "Stranded on Death Row". He later returned to spraypaint her body and burn it. Too young for Death Row himself, he is now appealing against a life-sentence: the anti-depressant Zoloff is held to blame, and the case is being funded by his parents, who have won some \$3m in the Florida state lottery.

MORSELS

Australia: In Victoria, Rocky Oppedisan, proprietor of Rocky's Bakeries, has been fined \$5,300 after selling a Vienna loaf to Kathleen Beecher, who said that the family had eaten some of it, been a little puzzled by the taste and thought that

the mouse within. "I felt ill and my day party, where his 79-year-old daughter went and threw up. I couldn't go near bread for weeks and I wouldn't eat another Vienna loaf if you paid me." Other flavours are off the menu now: inspectors have told Mr Oppedisan to purge his premises of ants and cockroaches.

have been saved after 27 days in a blocked mine, where they survived by eating their leather belts.

Australia: Somebody at the Cheesecake Shop in Modbury made a chocolate cake with marijuana among the ingredients and put it in the fridge for a colleague - but this was because they were not somebody else inadvertently sold it

the idea. "The ancient Sumerians deplored his singing of Dr Dre's vul-used to it. Only later did they reach to a mother for her son's 17th birthgrandmother was among the guests. She "felt a little bit silly. The cake was nice but whoever it was had spiced it up a bit. I went for a trip to the moon - I was completely out of it." Less stalwart guests required hospital treatment but an eight-monthold baby did not seem affected. As China: Six miners at Dongliang for the shop, its owner said. The Cheesecake Shop prides itself on its quality-control system."

> Hungary: A 71-year-old woman did not starve when she found herself locked in her pantry on 22 December. She lived for a month on tomato juice and canned fruit, by which time neighbours began to wonder where

CUDDLY, GSOH

Kebiao put an ad in a lonely-hearts

column - "Any woman will do, but I

hope that she understands the old

saving, 'Half of woman is man'." -

and said that he looks only 80. He has

had many offers, including several

women in their twenties, and a 58-

year-old woman flew to meet him

IN THE BUFF

New York: Anybody who arrives at

JFK and is pulled to one side by Cus-

toms is now offered a choice of a

forthwith.

Caribbean - but reckoned without his old religious-education teacher back home in Australia. Exuberant after some exams in 1991, Jai had cracked an egg on her head, for which ovate blessing he apologised. But she pressed charges of unlawful assault, and he was convicted and fined \$350. He became a computerproduct specialist and put the egg crime on a US visa application three years ago, with no problem. Now. however, when visas are not required, he was held for 48 hours. during which time he was asked if he had ever taken drugs, suffered from TB or been in a psychiatric institution. "There's more to this than the egg incident," he was told. China: Ninety-nine-year-old Zhang

UPDATE

California: Orange County Superior Court Judge Tam Schumann has issued a temporary injunction which requires Truong Tran to remove the Communist flag and poster of Ho Chi Minh which adorned his Hitek video store in the Little Saigon district of Westminster. Protesters celebrated outside with a dragon dance, but Tran, one of the boat people, is unfazed. He says he is not a Communist but that Vietnam has changed strip-search or an X-ray, which is not and he wants trade with the counonly thought less degrading for the try to be regular. The case continues.

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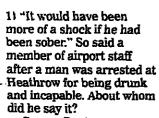
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Undie cover: Japanese police display £174,000-worth of women's lingerie, all stolen by one man from boutiques in the city of Nagoya. Police called the thief a 'maniac'

THE NEWS QUIZ



- a) George Best b) Liam Gallagher
- c) Oliver Reed d) Dudley Moore
- 2) Two electronics manufacturers went to the High Court hoping to prove that each others' inventions sucked. Who were they?
- 3) It has been a bad week for the following. Why?
- a) The Queen Mother b) The Ford Escort c) King Hussein of Jordan d) David Montgomery
- , 4) It has been a good week for the following. Why? a) President Chirac b) Boris, the Siberian

eagle owl











Hard times: Queen Mum, the Escort, King Hussein or Montgomery? (See Q3)

c) Bracken, the peregrine falcon d) Ted Hughes

5) "Lawyers are unscrupulous, psychiatrists are crazy, cops are psychopaths, and actors are spoilt brats." Who said it and why? a) Michael Winner

*THE INFORMATION

Games

If you're looking for virtual fun, who is the better bet. Lara-

Information's panel of experts while their joysticks out and

to PCs, sports simulators to shoot em ups. Game on

Croft? Or Some the Hedgebog? We we got the answers, as The

guide you round the very best in computer games, from Sega

b) Steven Spielberg c) Michael Crichton d) Michael Grade

At a press conference. police unveiled a life-size cardboard cutout of a man. Who is the man and why the cutout?

NEXT WEEK IN THE INFORMATION, free

Classic Computer

with The Independent every Saturday

The Sides

7) Advertisements were

placed in a number of national newspapers, offering the chance of a reward of up to £1m. Who

placed them? a) Mohamed al-Fayed b) Jerry Hall c) Kenneth Starr

d) Prince Michael of Kent

b) Mothers c) Single mothers d) Dentists

package of "family friendly"

measures announced on

Thursday as part of the

Fairness at Work

a) Nurses

Legislation?

9) One hundred teenage girls at a North London convent school are being taught about unwanted pregnancies in a rather unusual way. What is it?

10) A former member of the Cabinet has just put their home up for sale. Who is it?

a) Charlie Whelan b) Geoffrey Robinson c) Peter Mandelson d) Margaret Thatcher

11) Who have become prisoners in their own homes?

12) Which hard drug could end up being the soft option?

8) Who will benefit from a **ANSWERS**

Viagra cen cause priapism, and even permanent impotence. 12. Viagra. A specialist said that, if used by a sexually active man, tagged, and must stay at home between dusk and dawn 11. Fifty-seven inmates who were released early from jail. They are being electronically egg to look after as part of a sex education programme.

ot 11 mort bebashes sellive svssi cresh that killed Diana and Dodi. 8. b) Mothers, Paid maternity the Flat Uno involved in the in return for information about which the cutouts emphasise. He is shorter than first thought 6. He is an unknown bank-robber wanted for 34 armed robberies.

9. They have each been given an level of protection in accidents; c) King Hussein of Jordan they were portrayed in films. schenitate complained about how Advancement of Science after American Association for the Jurassic Park, told this to the companies had accused the over shoppers at Terminal I. 5. c) Michael Crichton, author of monnents; d) The late poet won the Whithread Book of the Year Award for Birlindoy Letters. arrested after throwing beer

psinpered by her tendency to help her breeding prospects, him to see again; c) Bracken, a wild female who lost a leg, was fitted with a prostitesis. This will had cataracts removed, enabling time as Mayor of Paris; b) Boris alleged corruption during his 4. a) President Chirac gained immunity from prosecution for resigned after losing the support of non-executive directors. executive of Mirror Group deposed his youngest brother a heir to the throne; d) The chief

stanoizzeq garitub TSvo धिह्य

Escort does not provide a high on car safety said that the an emergency operation for a bad nose-bleed; b) An EC report 3. a) The 98-year-old underwent other of majicious falsebood and insusing a rival's trademark of judge found both guilty of trademark infringements.

L c) Oliver Reed. He was

ONE OF the five people nominated for the

Holder was a bored director of a graphics

company until he gave it up for full-time cartoon work at the age of 40. He achieved his "ultimate goal" - getting a cartoon accepted by Punch - within a month, after which his darkly imagined scenarios and mouse-like protagonists played an important part in the final act of the magazine's 151 years as a cartoon institution; he drew Punch and Judy walking into the sunset for the old-style Punch's last cover in 1992.

BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY

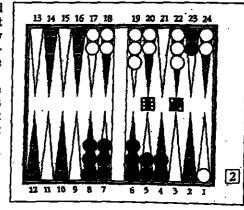
HERE'S A position spotted by Jake Jacobs and first published in Carol Joy Cole's excellent Flint Area Backgammon News - which is by far the longest-running backgammon newsletter. It will celebrate its 21st birthday in June of this year.

Black is involved in a prime-versus-prime and has a 62 to play. At first sight this is obvious: he should escape one of his back men by playing 23/15. What is there to think about?

As usual, quite a lot. White has the better home board - four points against three - and if black runs out with one man then white has a ready-made plan. He will attack black's last back man in order to give himself time to extricate his own man that is stranded on black's one-point. This plan could of course go horribly wrong if black hits another man – but at least it is a plan.

Now look what happens if black plays 8/2. 7/5. This seems anti-positional as black volunteers an apparently unnecessary direct shot. However, even if white hits the shot he is not much better off, as he will still not be at the edge of black's prime (unless he hits with 11). Meanwhile his own blockade will quickly crumble - and now he doesn't have the option of attacking black in his home board.

low white to destroy his prime, rather than try- brayc@globalnet.co.uk



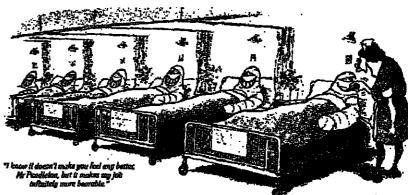
ing to win by escaping from behind it. Playing 8/2, 7/5 is therefore a better plan than running with 23/15. Johannes Levermann, the strong German player, found this move when playing against the legendary X-22 in a recent big-money jackpot. Remember, consider all your candidate plays, even if at first they feel wrong – you can't play a move you don't see.

Flint Area Backgammon News' can be found on the Internet at: http://homepage.interaccess.com/skatz/flint.html

Readers wishing to contact Chris Bray In essence black has sufficient timing to al-should note his change of e-mail address to:

CLASSIC CARTOONS

MARTIN PLIMMER ON TREVOR HOLDER (HOLTE)



1933 Hall of Fame by Vanity Fair was HT Webster - a cartoonist. This seems odd to us now because cartoonists are no longer cherished. "The age of the cartoon is past," says Trevor Holder, who drew this. "Most publications are run by accountants, who don't see any point in paying people to do little drawings."

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THE INFORMATION – it's all you need to know

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THE WEEKEND REVIEWS

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For the $\chi_{\pi_{\overline{\alpha}y}}$

MODERN MANNERS: YOUR C'IJT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE MINEFIELD

POPPY FOLLY

Dear Serena.

At a communal meal, should one wait until everyone has been served before one starts eating? I think yes, my flance says no. Who is right? Kirstie, Leeds

irand manners are always supposed to lictate that the moment a plate lands in front of you, you should get your snout straight into the trough like a Tory minister. If you start chowing while your hostess is still slaving over a hotplate, some individuals will think you're frightfully frightfully. Others, however, will think you're frightfully frightful: you wouldn't start eating before the Queen, would you? At least wait until your hostess has said encouraging words before you pick up your eating irons.

Also, don't be over-enthusiastic about shovelling up the pheasant in very grand houses. Certain elements among the toffs, who always delight in epate-ing the bourgeois, seem lately to have taken to saying grace at the beginning of meals, sometimes ever

going so far as importing a prati clergyman for the purpose. You'll look mighty fine spluttering a T.r. Deum round a mouthful of Bru sels sprouts, won't you?

Dear Serena. l occasionally drop in to my local sauna on a Satur Cay afternoon for a little R&R. I ha ve encountered someone sever ral times, and we seem to get on ver y well, if you know what I mean. The other day, though, he suggested 'r ve might go for a drink once we'd, got our clothes on, and I found w y self struck by panic. I mean, he see ous nice enough, but I thought peopl .f. went to saunas for anonymity. Is it . acceptable to make dates in these cir cumstances? Should I give it a go?

Why not? It could make an interesting story to tell the godchildren.

Gareth, Manchester

I recently found out that I had been

passed over for a job when the current incumbent started doing it. No one had had the manners to tell me. Is it normal these days not to bother to inform job candidates that they have failed? Renee, Battersea

sadly, to have become common practice these days among a certain type of employer to eschew courtesy to staff members. You are obviously working for one of these. I wouldn't bother saying anything, if I were you. Instead. start tunnelling your way out. When you get a new job, hand your resignation to

It's not normal, but it seems,

colleagues. They will, as is the way with personnel departments, fail to communicate the information to the relevant people. You can then derive considerable personal satisfaction from the fact that the first time these illmannered employers find out about you leaving is the day you don't turn up for work.

personnel rather than your

Dear Serena. I don't seem to have the staying power I had when I was a lad, and worry that I can't satisfy my partner like I used to. I was thinking about trying Viagra. Would you recommend it?

Roger, Marlowe

If you're not put off by potential heart attacks or

those who never will be and c) those who never really

were (ave atque vale Val Doonican and Prunella Gee).

But the has-beens make the most impressive list: Telly

Savalas, Denis Norden and Frank Muir, Ned Sherrin,

Jimmy Tarbuck, Oliver Reed, Roberta Flack, Robert

Anthony Howard, Nyree Dawn Porter, Libby Purves,

Bamber Gascoigne, Tony Blackburn, John Profumo

(you'd need something the size of the Vietnam vets

Aquarians are rotters, essentially. Their cardinal

virtues are entirely out of whack - they have too much

But suitably enough, for a sign ruled by Uranus, we

monument to do this particular list justice).

faith. far too much hope and no charity at all.

power his latest mail-ordered device).

find such gay icons as Tallulah Bankhead, Morgan

Fairchild, Franklin D Roosevelt, and Boris Spassky, as

well as the famous perverts Havelock Ellis and James

Watt (who had to invent the steam engine in order to

Wagner, George Mikes, John McEnroe, Janet Suzman,

crashing beadaches, there's no harm in giving it a go, I suppose, though staying power is one of those things whose value has been greatly exaggerated by the pornography industry. Technique has always been more valued by those in the know. But for heaven's sake, check that your partner has the time and inclination before you go popping anything; there are few anaphrodisiacs more effective than being expected to drop the laundry/ the baby/ one's nether garments when confronted without warning with a grinning sap proudly toting a chemical stiffie that won't go away.

Dear Serena, I am going to a wedding in Scotland and was wondering if you could recommend a good outlitters where I might buy a kilt? And what should I wear underneath?

Leonard, Lincoln

Yes, and I can also recommend a good place to buy a turban in case you get invited to a Sikh wedding. As to what to wear underneath, you should follow the native example and invest in a pair of frilly knickers in a contrasting fabric. Oh, and make sure, if there's reeling. that you fling your arms over your head and shriek "Hoots, Mon" every 10 seconds. That way you'll be sure to make an impression.

How long should a widower wait to appear in public with a new partner? C. Gloucestershire

Probably until the new partner has had enough hair-dying, facial treatments and styling advice to compete with the previous wife. Then again, there is only so much one can do: as my granny used to say, you can't make a Dresden shepherdess out of an old leather boot.

Knotty problems with the world today? Write to Dear Serena. The Independent, 18th Floor, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL, where they will be treated with customary sympathy



ARIES

YOU M'A'Y confidently expect to be more than popul: 1 c this week (mmm, much more), but the resp e ctable among you won't be pleased about the r_{\perp} Mars is cosying nicely up to Venus but the Struare with Neptune is spinning strange Carasires out of your subconscious. Either repress them and become neurotic, or act them out and have your phone number chalked up on toilet walls. Some aptitude for deceit may just help you through.



TAURUS

YOU WERE doing so well in love, you thought it would last for ever It was even getting spiritual there among the tumbled sheets. Passion isn't finished; it is to go on all week, but then you overshoot and collapse. Perhaps your lover leaves, exhausted; perhaps you are overwhelmed with disgust when someone turns the lights on. Maybe you have confused sexual passion with your financial ambitions. That's generally fatal. Good night.



GEMINI

WHAT A week, with powerful aspects stirring your pot this way and that. Pluto reveals to you the mysterious depths - now at last you understand why things are like this. Then an important conjunction with Uranus confers genius upon you - you are brilliant, you are in touch with the universal mind, you are practically telepathic. And, finally, you are given the creative power and stamina to act it all out. So now what's your excuse for it all going wrong?



CANCER

YOU SUFFER from a plangent melancholy. There is a memory of lost love, and time passing. You hear the laughter in the next room. and it is unbearable. It is easy to be depressed by those confident voices at the next table, people who have proper friends, and more than they need. You seem to be up to your elbows in the sink, with cads taking advantage of you from behind. Well, it is attention, after all. The answer isn't to lose weight.



LEO

In truth the sign is divided between a) has-beens, b)

f this is the dawning of the age of Aquarius, it's

taking an awfully long time - can't we sit down?

random mutation, and, like the majority of all

They're exhausting, Aquarians, especially

when you marry them. They're always

searching for the new. They're society's

But it's only after all the fireworks have gone out

are keen to tell you that it's the sign of genius, startling

that you discover how disappointing the sign is. They

knowledge. And yet look at what you in fact get: Olaf

You want a novelist? You get Norman Mailer. You

want an actor? You get Clark Gable. You want a queen?

You get Beatrix of the Netherlands, You want a butch

originality, explosive contributions to human

Palme, John Lydon, Elaine Stritch and half the

American expat writer? You get Gertrude Stein.

mutations, an error.

Smothers Brothers (Tom).

ALL RIGHT! And there you go; it's like a ride in a theme park that only teenagers dare try. You dive into the unknown, confident that you will be protected by the benign forces of the higher universe (this may be over-confidence). You always find it difficult to be objective about your merits (you tend not to underestimate them), but here you are marvellously wellendowed in friendship, in work. You're almost like a team-player (people like that).



Virgo

YOU'VE HAD a less successful time than you might have hoped recently, but don't dig up your flower garden to plant potatoes. If you weren't so lonely you wouldn't achieve anything. But you do need a fundamental connection, even if it is impossible to maintain. Just because consequences are disastrous is no excuse for hiding in the kennel of yourself. Get out and face your destiny. You're holding up better than expected, no thanks to anyone.



LIBRA

CHASING ROMANTIC phantoms has been important for you if only to pass the time (it would have passed anyway). But you may not have realised that the phantoms were real, with the power to frighten, transform and thoroughly mislead. In spite of your adventures and discoveries, you recoil from love as from pleasure - it's as though you're suddenly and savagely hung over. Repentance is fine, but in reality you can unpick only so much passion.



SCORPIO

STAND BACK, everyone - the drains are blocked and the waste-disposal is working in reverse. Dark secrets are out; suppressed appetites are raging again; strange desires let loose and they're running round your head like leopards in an empty swimming-pool. Fortunately for us you are more than usually deceitful, and Mercury will help you - but can the few who are close to you persuade you that they're trustworthy enough to live with your secrets?



SAGITTARIUS

AS YOUR ruling planet is in semi-square to Uranus, this is the week you have half a chance of losing your fortune, your family, your reputation and anything else you value. You just get going and suddenly you get bored, or you fall over, or someone with a sweeter profile catches your eye and you abruptly change direction. You are always in danger of buying high and selling low. Now the danger is buying high and giving it all to charity.



CAPRICORN

AT LAST you come into standing water, the tide must be turning. You can stay in the same place just by holding your breath. This is where habit lets you down; now is the time when you could make progress. You have energy stored, if only you could access it, but you feel you are caught in a web of your own spinning. You might console yourself with the thought that you are the spider, and there are still some flies out there, despite the cold.



AQUARIUS

YOU'RE OFF in the higher realms, beyond the frontiers of visible science, below the horizon of the known world. Your will is attuned to your intellect and volu are pursuing a goal beyond the understanding of your friends (who think you're bats, by the way). A faulty aspect with Jupiter means you may in fact just be a crank there is no way for you to tell the difference. but it will be quite obvious to us). C'est magnifique, mais ne pas la vie.



PISCES

ALL RIGHT, so there are impulses coming up from deep down, from the darkness where it all began, but don't look on the results as sexual deviation (just because your partner does). Look on it as therapy to fulfil childhood longings (don't tell your partner what you're doing). If you abandon yourself to your astrology you will drink deep of alcohol, drug abuse and sexual excess. But Mercury helps you to explain it all away later.



IT'S A circus out there. chaotic and illogical. A judge says the cruelty used on a defenceless chimp went "beyond what was

necessary". Necessary cruelty, there's a concept. Being cruel to be caned. It may make legal sense, but not common sense. This week also the New Millennium Experience Company tried with limited success to convert two

Dome sceptics by walking

them round it. Oh well, two

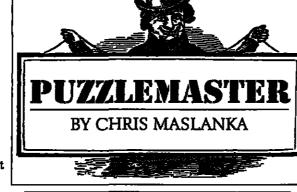
down, 52,619,998 of us to go. Experience can pop the prejudicial bubble. My unexpected sighting of our stately Dome (of last week's column) converted me at a glance. It needed a direct sighting and not remote viewing. My driver remained unimpressed perhaps because, like Hercules, he was shielded from its Medusan charms by seeing it only in the mirror.

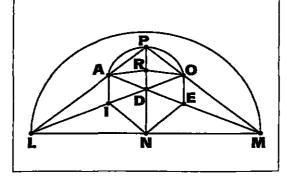
The dearth of roadsigns on my road to Damascus (or "Damn! Don't ask us") augurs ill for visitors. Or is the plan to lure people there by mistake? After all, some things (eg happiness) are best approached indirectly. All roads lead to dome.

Moses died within sight of the promised land. I thought I'd had my microchips within sight of the promised lunch when we ran into another unexpected sighting just short of our Docklands destination: the Westferry roundabout, all lit-up like a Christmas tree. Yet it wasn't a tree and it wasn't just for Christmas. It was a huge cluster of traffic lights.

Damien Hirst may do things by halves, but not the Commission for New Towns: according to the East London Advertiser there are 65 sets of lights in this work of art. My driver not realising that art had right of way - shot several reds, green and ambers and careered wildly off into a carpark. As we adjusted our hold on reality I visualised another roundabout somewhere else with all the missing

roadsigns on it. It's not all mad news. Music in schools - known to facilitate acquisition of other skills, including maths is to receive increased fimding. To the 3E's (Education Education, Education) and the 3P's





(Phonics, Phonics, Phonics) add the new mantra: Literacy Numeracy Musicality. Not quite in alphorder perhaps, but, it can at least spell its own initials, unlike the 3R's.

Oh and Puzzle Ponel's back, though I had wondered if all the strands would come together in

time. I'd set aside January to tackle a backlog of paperwork and to immerse my asthmatic lungs in breathable air in the Alps or Palm Desert.

But a frantic call from the editor put paid to that. The series had been brought forward two weeks. No one seemed

the mistake had happened. But then in complex organisations things happen without anyone having done them, which saves on apologies. With ineluctable Sherlockian logic I eliminated all suspects one by one till only I remained. I must have done it What the hell, when have

I ever been up-to-date, on

terribly sure why or how

time or had a clear desk? I can't even find the intray. My quest for air would have to wait. But my lungs had other ideas. Flu left me with asthma so bad that breathing was painful. Even slight wheezing can upset radio listeners. A woman once wrote to point out that she paid her licence fee in full and deserved someone who could breathe properly. I do understand. I once listened to a talk and registered only the bits where the speaker's teeth whistled. It set my ears on edge.

The show had to go on. A Harley Street doctor was found who - between my script meeting and tea with the panellists - injected me with depomedrone. It didn't

stop the pain, but at least I didn't wheeze; or croak.

From then on all went smoothly. It was, of course, a dream team: David Singmaster, William Hartston and Val Gilbert. But also it was a return to the magical, manageable. mythical world of puzzles.

Solutions to last week's nuzzles- A3x3 magic square can only be constructed in integers if its magic number is a multiple of 3. 2. BOG ASPHODEL 3. NeuroN. INDOeuroPEAN. Brian Glyde suggests PLeuroN(S). Apparently it's a somite (sic), especially in an insect's thorax.

Points to Ponder: 1. You leave home for the dome (see picture, left) traversing each part of the network exactly once. Where's home? Where's the dome? 2. How many states do 65 sets of traffic lights have?

Comments to indy@puzzlemaster.co.uk Puzzle Panel': R4, Fridays

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

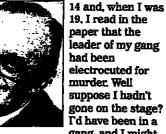
LARRY ADLER, 84, MOUTH ORGANIST

I TOOK a lady to see Show Boat last night, which reminds me of a joke. It's about Mrs Oscar Hammerstein talking to a lady at a party, and the lady says, "Look who just came

in. It's Jerome Kern who wrote 'Old Man River'!" and Mrs Hammerstein said, "Jerome Kern did NOT write 'Old Man River', my husband wrote 'Old Man River'. What Jerome Kern wrote was 'dah, dah, dahdaaah'...

As a kid, I remember spending a day playing with some marbles in the street, but another kid came along and took my marbles. Then a big boy came up and said, "What are you crying about kid?" When I told him, he took the other boy by the feet and held him upside down until the marbles dropped out of his pocket, then he invited me to join his gang.

We used to rob department stores, and I specialised in the candy counters because they were easy to reach. Then I went on the stage when I was



gang, and I might have been with him on that job, because he was my hero. Next month I'll be back in

my home town of Baltimore, where I have the distinction of being the only student ever expelled from the Peabody Conservatory of Music. The students were supposed to take part in a recital, and I'd prepared a waltz by Grieg. But when I came up on stage, the superintendent said: "And what are we going to play, my little man?" So little man went to the piano and played "Yes, We Have No Bananas".

Larry Adler plays the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1, on 12 February. His latest album 'The Genius of Larry Adler' (Decca) is released on Monday

PANDORA MELLY

BBC1

8.40 Match of the Day 7.50 Telefubbles

(84590). 9.30 Heaven and Earth

Match of Their Day (1615). 11.30

CountryFile (2344). 12.00 On the

2.35 Flight of the Navigator

aliens (S) (T) (1738122).

Local News (8028528).

Record (37325). 1.00 Tom and Jerry

(73109344). 115 EastEnders (4896122).

(Randal Kleiser 1986 US). Disney tale

about a 12-year-old abducted by

4.05 Are You Being Served? (9089412).

5.30 Songs of Praise. From the Castle

6.05 Last of the Summer Wine (S)

(T) (809257).

Museum in York (\$) (T) (246306).

discoveries in Northallerton, North Yorkshire, including two resewood

boxes by the same maker, brought

7.20 Holiday Guide to... Cruising.

8.00 The Scarlet Pimpernel. 2/3.

From Alaska to Disnev's latest

together after 150 years (S) (482431).

venture, the Disney Magic which sails to the Bahamas (S) (T) (891290).

Second of these three feature-length

dramas based on the character

created by Baroness Orczy and

starring an interestingly miscast

Richard E Grant as the Pimpemel

This week he is called upon to track

down Helène, the daughter of the

Marquis de Rochambeau, However,

McGovernis feverish Lakeland saga.

John and Beverly continue their

twisted romance (S) (T) (525702).

starring Harriet Walter (S) (T) (287412).

Linton Travel Tavern closes for

refurbishment (R) (S) (T) (952257).

Chauvelin (Martin Shaw) is also

looking for her (S) (T) (92986).

9.30 The Lakes. More from Jimmy

4.35 Masterchef 1999 (7528344).

5.05 News; Weather (2791528). 5.25

(8465783). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost

(81325), 10.30 Porridge (80734), 11.00

6.35 Antiques Roadshow. Antiques

PM

10.10 News; Weather (1) (157832).

10.25 Unfinished Business. Steem

10.55 I'm Alan Partridge. The

11.25 The Big End (S) (T) (303141). 11.55 All Night Long iJean-

Claude Tramont 1981 US; Engaging slapstick romance with married executive Gene Hackman dropping out and romancing Barbara Streisand :368509). To 1,25am,

BBC2

8.15 French Experience (9382783). 8.30 Little Mouse (7813528), 8.50 Alvin and the Chipmunks (7817344). 9.15 Charlie Brown (6979764), 9.40 Wild House (5355832). 10.05 Wayne Manifesto (1664073). 10.30 Grange Hill (5385986). 10.55 Kids and Cops (3806493). 11.20 Grange HB (1744528). 12.00 () Zone (4490257). 12.15 The Simpsons (4948344). 12.40 Ren and Stimpy (4450035), 1.00 Around Westminster (39344). 1.30 Sunday Grandstand (79594238). 1.35 Ski Sunday (6683054). 2.10 Tennis (7016986). 3.30 Athletics (785696).

5.50 The Natural World. A look at the unique habitat of the Everglades, narrated by Tim Piggott-Smith (S) (T) (287528)

Chimpanzee Diary (56-1431).

5.10 Animal Zone (8021615), 5.15

Watch Out Britain (2788054), 5.35

- 6.45 Star Trek: Voyager. The romance between Paris and Torres continues to biossom (S) (T)
- 7.30 The Money Programme. Many of Germany's biggest companies used slave labour during the Second World War (S) (T) (899).
- 8.00 The Great Flood. Archaeological detective story following a trail back many thousands of years to the time of Noah and the great flood (S) (T)
- 8.50 Monet's Gardens (183696).
- 9.00 A History of Alternative Comedy. Talking to French and Saunders and Jo Brand (9493).
- 9.30 Gimme Gimme Gimme. Tom is inundated with offers of television work (R) (S) (T) (36696).
- 10.00 Trade Secrets (R) (S) (175238). 10.10 BIDIES Shot through the **Meart.** Powerful drama, based on a true story, about friendship tom apart by the civil war in Yugoslavia. See Drama of the Day, below (477257).
- 12.00 Happy New Year (Claude Lelouch 1973 Fr), Crime caper about a couple of thieves who are plotting a jewel heist. The plan is gradually undermined as one of the par falls for the owner of their next
- 1.55 BBC Learning Zone (22420). To

tarcet - an antiques store (261623).

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (66257), 8.00 Diggit (6488829). 9.25 Art Attack (6995702), 9.50 The Worst Witch (5362122). 10,20 Extreme Ghostbusters (6789073). 10.45 Oggy and the Cockroaches (5336431). **1L00** Sunday Morning (22054). 12.00 My Favourite Hymns (18702), 12.30 Crosstalk (43986), 1.00 News (73170832). 140 Jonethan Dirribleby (5960764), 2.00 Murder, She Wrote (2ddddd)

- 2.55 Casino Royale (John Huston 1967 UK), James Bond spoof with David Niven, Peter Sellers and Woody Allen (48644035).
- 5.20 Big Screen (6029509).
- 5.50 Dream Ticket. Madeira. Copenhagen and Suffolk (931054).
 - 6.20 London Weekend Tonight (1)
 - (986870).
 - 6.45 ITN News; Weather (852590). 7.00 Bill Bryson's Notes from a
 - Small Island (S) (T) (3238). 7.30 Coronation Street. Sally gets a
 - lodger (T) (325). 8.00 Heartheat. An accentric old
 - woman reports an abduction, and Greengrass meets an old friend with an unusual proposition (S) (T) (1967).
 - 9.00 London's Burning. Firefighting soap. After Dan has doubts about continuing as a firefighter, he and Pearce find themselves in danger when scaffolding starts to come loose around them (S) (T) (4431).
 - 10.00 Tarrant on TV, More turny foreign TV with Chris Tarrant (S) (T) (19431).
- 10.30 ITN News; Weather (T) (940412).
- 10.45 The South Bank Show, A profile of dancer Javier de Frutos - bestknown for performing most of his works in the nude (S) (T) (436948).
- 11.45 Faith and Music (2034)21 12.15 Still in Bed with MeDinner (2798710).
- 12.50 Film Born to Ride (Graham Baker 1991 US). Adventure about the wartime motorcycle riders (252721).
- 2.30 Seaguest 2032 (3033352), 3.20 Jonathan Dimbleby (3418246). To 4am.

Channel 4

640 Bill and Ted (7371783), 6.40 Dog City (2141257). 7.05 Magic Roundarout (8761568). 730 Animal Alphabet (5625696), 7.20 Salty's Lighthouse (2453257). 7.45 Bug Alerti (54344). 8.15 Saved by the Bell (514/509), 8.40 City Guys (8194832). 9.40 Cat-dog (7110603), 9.45 Planet Pop (8747-306). 10.00 The Waltons (13572), 11.00 Hollycalcs (3931832). 12.10 Dishes (3049412). 1.15 Football Italia (49145948), 3.30 Travelog Treks

- 3.45 The Wind and the Lion (John Milius 1975). Sean Connery and Candice Bergen star in this desert adventure (28299238).
- 5.55 News; Weather (527141).

(8918493).

- 6.00 Time Team. Tony Robinson leads a team in Plympton, Devon, where a ruined Norman castle towers over the area. But what else is there hidden beneath the gardens of the modern houses? (1) (26219).
- 7.00 Hampton Court Palace. Omnibus edition of the documentary series looking behind the scenes at Hampton Court (R) (T) (3561).
- 8.00 The Phil. More from this docu-sosp about the Philharmonia Orchestra. This week, working mum violinist Carol Hultmark tries to juggle her career and family while clarinettist Mike Whight tries to do something about his crushing workload (T) (9508).
- 9.00 CHUES The Real. Don Giovanni. Opera singe: Thomas Alten takes a dark journey to reveal the real man behind Mozart's famous opera. See Documentary of the Day, below (T) (2073).
- 10.00 CHOCK What's Love Got to Do with It? (Brian Gibson 1993 US). Time Turner biopic starting Angela Bassett and Laurence Fishburne. See Film of the Day, below (S) (T) (90643219).
- 12.10 4 Later: Babylon 5 (1355997). 1.10 4 Later: Dark Skies (R. 'S) [T (7365265), 2.05 Dweets (35333).
- 2.30 Le Parfum d'Yvonne (Patrice Leconte 1994 Fr., A gambe whimsical tale from the director of Monsieur Hire and The Hairdresser's Husband, Jean-Pierre Mariete is the acroy deserter at its centre '\$4333'

Channel 5

6.00 Mixing It (6059716), 6.30 Havakezoo (7140783). **7.00** Dappledown Farm (9405344). 7.30 Mikshekel (3504667). **7.35** Wimzle's House (9136257), 8.00 The Mission (1576948), 8.30 The Revelation Game (1575219). **9.00** Sticker Around (1599899) 9.30 Mikiner (9341948). 10:00 Mirror, Mirror (7131035). 10,30 The Valley Between (1588783). 11.00 USA High (4087-306). 11.30 Singled Out (4088035). 12.00 The Mag (79853948). 1.10 5 News (89365293). 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (18617122). 150 Movie Chart Show (65724603). 2.20 Exclusive (96012783). 3.25 Family Affairs Omnibus (95132529).

- 5.40 Jeenage Mutant Ninja Turties (Stuart Gillard 1992 US). The turties swap the sewers of New York for feuclal Japan where they must do battle with medieval warlords (F) (S) (T) (14009493).
- 7.30 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (5606580).

प्रतिकृति सम्बद्धाः । वस्ति । स्रोतिकृति सम्बद्धाः । वस्ति ।

- 8.00 Wild Secrets. Documentary about the adventures, trials and tribulations of a widile camera learn, led by the late Dister Plage, merconed for three veers in the islands of the Galapagos (S) (T) (5944948).
- 8.00 Film Co-ed Call Girl (Michael Ray Rhodes 1995 US). Great title for this yarn about a bookish student (Tori Spelling) who becomes a successful call girl. Doing it as a bit of a joke, our lass soon has plenty of problems when a client attacks her and, in self-defence, she kills him (S) (1) (12716832).
- 10.50 The Comedy Network. With Junior Simpson, Stewart Lee, Dame Sybile, Adam Bloom, Tommy Tiernan and Jan Tavare (3814764).
- 11.20 Water Rats (5916883). 12.15 Sports Talk with Steve Scott (4208994). 1.00 ice Hockey - NHL (S) (43183246). 4.40 Tibs and Fibs (R) (S) (65359791). 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S) (46192913). 5.30 Wholise SOS (R) (S) (T) (9293888). To 6am.

ITV/Regions

Artofia

As CNT excepts 12.30 Anglia
News Sunday Supplement (43985).
2.00 in the Fire: the Making of
Feet of Flames (80580). 3.45 Murder,
She Wrote (548122). 4.13 Film:
Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of
Grey (14298764). 6.00 Wildlife
Rescue (337257). 6.35 Anglia
News (667528). 12.15 Still in Bed
with MeDirner (73913). 12.45 Film:
Born to Ride (402178). 2.25 With Meuritier (13913) 12-43 FETT:
Born to Ride (402178): 2.25
Fighlander (3486823): 3.20
Jonathan Dimbleby (6592975): 4.05
Cybernet (39889888): 4.30
Soundtrax (83069284): 4.45 ITV
Nightscreen (85585449): 5.06
Cyponation Street (85371) Coronation Street (85371).

Central As LWT except: 12.30 Lifetine (54213851). 12.35 Central Newswork (4455580). 12.55 Central News (55750122). 2.00 its Central News (55750722) 2.00 its Your Shout (2122). 2.30 Tirsha (9376290). 3.20 Murder, She Wrote (2722899). 4.15 Film: The Chairman (4295764). 6.00 Heart of the Country (561). 6.30 Central News (602257). 4.10 Jobfinder (4179791). 5.05 its Your Shout (7131265).

5.05 its Your Shour (7/3/200).

HTV Wales
As LWT except: 12.00 My
Favourite Hymns (49292/9). 12.25
Welsh Agenda (4922306). 12.55
HTV News (55750122). 2.00
Murder, She Wrote (7/7/948). 2.50
Flm: North to Alaska (48656870).
5.10 The Front How (4265529). 6.40
Soccer Sunday (893696). 6.40
HTV News (927912). 12.15 - 5.00
As Anolia.

As Angla.

HTV West
As HTV Wales except: 12.25
The Sunday Roast (4922306): 2.00
On the Road (2122): 2.30 Murder,
She Wrote (3887526): 3.25 Film:
Carry On Henry (67579667): 5.40
Last Trains (4204734): 5.40
Getaways (673525): 6.30 Viest
Match Plus (893696):

Meridian

& LWT except: 12.30 7 Days

& LWT except: 12.30 7 Days

& 1483509), 12.50 Meridian News

(\$4239899), 2.00 Getaways

(\$353696), 2.35 Murder, She Wrote

(\$367764), 3.35 Firm: Diary of

Anne Frank (801073), 5.35 Big Day

Out (\$7257), 6.05 Moritey

Business (894325), 6.35 Meridian

News (\$67526), 12.45 - 5.00 As

Angla, 5.06 Freescreen (85371), Meridian

Westcountry
As LWT except: 12.30
Westcountry Weekend Match
(43986), 2.00 World of Wonder
(2122), 2.30 Film: Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey (8409956)). 4.15 Firm: Marconed (44335122). 6.30 Westcountry Goals Extra (644677). 6.35 Wastcountry News (65 - 5.00 As Anglia. 7525) 12:15

Yorkshire
As LWT except: 12.30 GE2
ban tat (43986) 2.00 Catendar
News (35685122) 2.05 Murger,
She Wrote (2401677) 3.05 First:
The Count of Monte Cristo
435441 5.00 Catendar (4316441). 5.00 Coronation Strest (2509). 6.00 Calendar News (269615). 6.45 Goals on Sunday (932412). 12.45 Still in Bed with MeDianer (73913). 12.45 Cybernet (8774245), **1.20** Firm: Judwas (42618449), **4.30** Jobfinder (21913).

Tyne Tees
As Yorkshire except: 12.30
Newsweek (43986). 2.00 North
East News and Weather (35685/22).
6.00 North East News (2696/5).
6.15 Cafe Sport (9324/2).

S4C mnei 4 except: 11.00 As Chainnel 4 except: 11.00 Hollycals (47401257). 12.00 Gogs (93688603). 12.10 Rownd a Rownd (69641219). 12.40 Ffeii (40199870). 12.55 Gol (32073667). 1.40 Talkabout Welsh (39493122). 2.00 Ffermio (29646986). 2.35 Brokside (51960677). 4.00 Norland Namies (56777412). 4.30 Pam Fi Duw? (56773696). 5.00 Newyddion (16253257), 5.05 Newyodon (1823:257), 5.05 Pobol y Ewropa (650:2629), 5.35 Pobol y Cwm (53893238), 7.30 Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canrnol (567:74325), 8.00 Botwm 4 (49684770), 8.30 Shan Cothi (50839667), 9.00 Talcen Caled (61077870), 10.05 Newyddion (55575141). 10.20 Film: Cracker - The Movie: One Day a Visition - The Novie: one bay a Lemming Will Fly (77783035) 12.15 Babylon 5 (24236888) 1.10 Whatever Happened to the Plagus? (24457915) 2.45 Close.

DRAMA OF

SHOT THROUGH THE HEART (10:10pm BBC2/ A powerful, really excellent drama starring Linus Roache (right) and Vincent Perez as friends and fellow marksmen in the Yugoslav Olympic shooting team who end up as snipers on opposing sides in the war in Bosnia. Guy Hibbert's script. based on real events in Sarajevo, puts the whole conflict in very human terms.

Radio 1 (976-998MHz FM) 6.30 Kevin Greening 10.00 Mark Goodier's

Radio 1 Request Show.

1.00 Lisa l'Anson. 3.00
Top of the Pops. 4.00
UK Top 40. 7.00 Radio
15 Dance Anthems with

Dave Pearce. 10.00 Trevor Nelson. 12.00

Radio 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 7.00 Don Maclean. 9.05 Steve Wright's

Sunday Love Songs. 11.00 Parkinson's

Sunday Supplement.

100 Desmond Carrington. 3.00 By Popular
Demand. George
Gershwin: a Stairway to

Clive Warren.

Radio 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air.

Encore. 12.15 Music Matters.

1.00 The Radio 3

Lunchtime Concert.

4.15 Centurions.

5.45 Sunday Feature:

Nightingales of the Nile. 6.30 Private Passions.

composer and theatre

director Tom Philips,

biblical oratorio 'Elijah'

recorded at the 1988

Œ

Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30



THE REAL DON GIOVANNI (9pm C4) Baritone Thomas Allen (right) goes in search of the real figure who inspired Mozart's operatic nobleman, and emerges with a thought-provoking new theory. He names a famous figure who was in Prague for the premiere of Mozart's opera, which might have been more interesting had this film been less flashily out together.



WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT (10pm C4) If Tina Turner (right) and all her works don't interest you in the slightest. then the comedy All Night Long (11.55pm BBC1) is a really nice surprise. Otherwise, this is a one-sided but abovepar biopic of the pioneering rock singer, with Oscar-nominated performances from Angela Bassett and Laurence Fishburne.



SATELLITE & CABLE

RADIO Susan Gritton and Ingrid

Attrot (sopranos), Jean Pigby and Christine aims (mezzos). Antho ny Rolfe Johnson and Mark Tucker (tenors), Roderick Williams and Bryn Terfel (baritones), Stephen Richardson (bass), London Sympho-ny Chorus, BBC National Chorus and Orchestra of les/Richard Hickox 9.40 Sunday Play: Via Dolorosa. David Hare's one-man play, written after his trip to Israel and Palestine in saler and Palestine in 1997 and performed by the playwright in his acting debut. After many invitations, the 50-year-old playwright finally visited the state of israel in 1997. The resulting in 1997. The resulting play offers a meditation on an extraordinary trip
which leaves the author
questioning his own
values as searchingly as
the powerful beliefs of 11.15 World Music. 11.45 BBC Philharmonic. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Cerstwin: a Stainway to Paradise 4.00 The Crooners. 4.20 Sing Something Simple. 5.00 Parm Ayres 7.00 Hugh Scully. 8.30 Sunday Half Hour. 9.00 Alan Keith. 10.00 Malcolm Laytock. 11.00 The David Jacobs Collection. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta those he met. Director Kate Rowland. (R) Radio 4 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday (924-946MHz FM Morning. 11.00 Artist of the Week 6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Something Understood. 6.35 On Your Farm. 6.57 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Sunday Papers. 3.00 Spirit of the Aga. 4.00 100 Great Singers. 7:10 Sunday. 7:55 Radio 4 Appeal. 8.00 News. 8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship. 8.45 Letter from America. 9.00 News; Michael Berkeley's gues this week is artist. Broadcasting House. 10.00 The Archers. 11.15 Desert Island whose production of Otello is currently in the repertory of English National Opera. 12.00 News; Tales from the Back of Beyond. 12_30 Just a Minute. 12_58 Weather. 7.30 Choir Works Brian Kay introduces a perfor-mance of Mendelssohns 1.00 The World This Weekend. 1.30 Counterpoint. 2.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time.

2.45 If I Be a Fisherman. 3.00 News; The Classic Serial: Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands. 4.00 News; Open Book. 4.30 Poetry Please. 5.00 News; File on 4. 5.40 Me, Myself, Owl. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.35 Pick of the Week. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Room for improve-ment. Laurie Taylor and guests explore the art of

self-improvement, from mastering a language or appreciating music to al skills.

8.00 News; The Oldest Member. Maurice Denham stars as the golf club veteran in six ston by P G Wodehouse. 5: 'The Heart of a Goof'. With Michael Fenton Stevens, Helen Atkinson Wood, Jon Glover, John Graham and Alan Thompson. 8.30 Law in Action. Mar-cel Berlins investigates how the law works and

where it goes wrong. 9.00 News; Weather Wise. Paul Simons looks at the role of volcanos in weather. (R) 9.30 in Business. 'Over a Barref. Oi prices plunge - oil grants merge. Peter Day reports on the upheavals sweeping through the oil industry. 10.00 News; The Westminster Hour, Andrew Rawnsley presents the political headlines of the next week, live from Westminster, Including 10.45 Sketches from the House. Nick Utechin explores the history of writers, a tradition going back to the 1850s. Parliamentary Events and Procedures. 11.00 News; Hidden

chairs the antiques quiz from John Vanbrugh's North Yorkshire architec-tural masterpiece -Castle Howard. With guests Hilary Kay and Penny Brittain from the 'Antiques Roadshow', antiques expert Robert Dalgety, and Timothy Clifford of the National Galleries of Scotland. 11.30 Something Understood. 12.00 News. 12.15 Diaries of Today. 12.30 The Late Story: amous in Lands

12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Radio 4 LW (198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 8.00 - 10.00 Open University.

Unknown.

Radio 5 Live (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Brief Lives. 6.30 Breakfast with Andrew Neil 9.00 SportsWeek 10.00 Hayes on Sunday. 12.00 Ghosts. 12.30 The Media Show. 1.00 Sunday Sport. Footbal: commentary at 4.00 on the FA Carting Premiership game between two of London's title challengers, as double winners Arsenal take on Chelsea at Highbury. Plus news of the game at the Valley between Charlton Athletic and Manchester United. 6.00 The Scottish Premier League. 8.00 News Extra. News and business round-up. 8.30 Brief Lives. 9.00 Dallyn Worldwide. 9.30 Out This Week.

10.00 Late Night Currie. Edwina Currie with the weekend's talking points. Plus regular reports from Eleanor Oldroyd in Miami watching Super Bowl XXXIIL 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. Classic FM

(1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Romance. 12.00 Across the Threshold with David Mellor, 2.00 Alan Mann. 4.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 Countdown Top Ten. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Sunday Night at the Opera.

1L00 Michael Mappin.

1.00 Evening Concert.

2.00 - 6.00 Mark Grif-

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Jonathan Ross. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Janey Lee Grace 7.30 Harriet Scott / AM from 6.45 Janey Lee Grace. 10.00 James Merritt. 10.00 Steve Power. 4.30 6.30 Richard Allen. World Service Radio (198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today.

1.30 Meridian. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Pick of the World. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Global Business. 4.00 -7.00 The World Today. Talk Radio 6.00 Paul Ross. 10.00 Derek Draper and Peter Hitchens, 12.00 Russell Grant. 3.00 Nicky Home's Access All Year 6.00 Let's Talk Cornedy with Don McLeary and Sanjeev Cohii, 8.00 Jayne irving, 10.00 James Whale, 1.00 -6.00 Mike Dickin

Sky Premier 6.00 Ferrines Fabiles (18948). 7.00 Frog and Wombat (1998) (70615). 9.00 Proentx and the 9.00 Pricents and the Magic Carpet (1994) (25829). 10.30 Hello Again (1997) (44344). 12.30 Hollywood Buzz (83529). 1.00 Frog and Wombat (1998) (24948). 3.00 Phoenix and the Magoc Carpet (1994) (38412). 5.00 Hello Again (1987) (48509). 7.00 Nico the Unicom (1998) (61967). 9.00 Barry Normans Film Night (78122). 9.30 Dantels Peak (1997) (882035). 11.20 (1812), 9-30 Dentes Peak (1997) (822035), 11_20 Sweet Nothing (1994) (190528), 12_50 Diabolique (1996) (439523), 2_35 The Last Supper (1996) (313807), 4_10 - 6_00 Nico the Unicom (1996) (408975).

the Unicom (1998) (408975).

Sixy Moviellax
6.00 Goddess of Love
(1988) (82219), 8.00

American Hot Wax (1978)
(35054, 10.00 Playing to
Win (1979) (61308), 12.00

Goddess of Love (1988)
(25677), 2.00 American
Hot Wax (1978) (25615).

4.00 Heart Full of Rain
(1997) (8403), 8.00 Playing
to Win (1997) (58821), 8.00
Independents Day (1998)
(19780), 9.00 Swingers
(1996) (1997), 100 Box
of Moonlight (1997) (3914),
1.00 Omega Doom (1996)
(66449), 2.30 The
Addiction* (1997) (6037081).
3.55 - 6.00 Tenor of
Medragodzia (1975)
(50254975).

Sixy Cimenta

Sky Cinema 1.00 Underwater (1955) (95471431), 12.45 Gunfight at the OK Corral (1957) (63468948), 3.00 The Magnificent Seven (1960) (35608832), 5.50 The Great Sevena (1963) (67785)411 Escape (1963) (67769141).

8.00 McQ (1974) (7871306).

10.00 Frenzy (1972).

10.70 Frenz Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Margolds (1972) (8636468). 3.40 The Magnificent Seven (1960) (16412265). 5.45 Close.

Film Four

6.00 A River Runs through It (1992) (43189783). **8.06** Sunday (45067257). **9.40** Sundance Festival (2521677). **10.00** Reservoir (252/67/). 10.00 risservor Dogs (1891) (7844870). 11.40 Sundance Festival (7959122). 12.00 Poison (1990) (8726265). 1.30 Go Fish (1995) (4.468975). 2.55 Straight Out of Brooklyn (1991) (3920517). 4.20 6.00 The News (7683499).

Discovery Channel
4.00 Eagle over Lebanon
(6038290), 5.00 Flightline
(87/832), 5.30 Bixes
(134431), 6.00 Lonely
Planet (4391702), 7.00
Supernatural (169/896),
7.30 Creatures Pantastic
(1328690), 8.00 Revelation
(9734986), 8.00 Ultimate
Guide to Horses (9714122). (9734988): 9.00 Ultimate Guide to Horses (974122). 10.00 Ultimate Guide to Octopus (9724509): 11.00 Ultimate Guide to Whales (9034385): 12.00 Discover Magazine (6589710): 1.00 Justice Files (7939517). 2.00 Close. Sky One 6.00 Hour of Powe 6.00 Hour of Power (25236), 7.00 Bump in the Night (58493), 7.30 Street Sharks (77526), 8.00 Double Dragon (39219), 8.30 Fattoood Teenage Alien Fighters from Bevi Hills (21290). 9.00 The

Alen Fighters from Beverly Hils (2290, 9.00 The Simpsons (45870), 9.30 Garrield and Friends (89702), 10.00 Dream feam (6542), 11.00 World Wresting Federation Superstars (53948), 12.00 Just Kidding (50290), 10.00 The New Adventures of Superman (88073), 2.00 Beverly Hils, 90210 (44702), 3.00 Guity (77483), 4.00 Star Trak; Deep Space Nine (96528), 5.00 Star Trak; Voyager (5851), 6.00 The Simpsons (7325), 7.00 King of the Hil (5890), 7.30 3 rd Rock from the Sun (3509), 8.00 Earth: Final Conflict (14412), 9.00 Ultraviolet (97568), 10.00 Naked in Westminster (58685), 11.00 South Park (87557), 14.30 Westminster (58685), 41.00

South Park (97257), 11.30 South Park (49257), 12.00

1.00 Sightings (86739). 2.00 - 7.00 Long Play (9277371).

(S277371).

Sky Sports 1

6.00 NFL Super Bowl
XXXII Preview (97967).
6.30 European Tour Golf
Heinsten Classic (275257).
9.30 Watersports World
(92054). 10.30 Moto-plus
(10763). 11.00 Goals on
Sunday (77798). 12.00
European Tour Golf
Heinsten Classic (988219).
3.00 Ford Super Sunday
Arsanal v Chalsea
(7592035). 6.30 NFL Super
Bowl XXXIII Preview (6677).
7.00 Internetional Cricket
(329692). 10.00 Moto-plus
(95144). 10.30 NFL Super
Bowl XXXIII Super
Bowl XXXIII Super
Bowl XXXIII Super
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Bowl XXXIII Super
Bowl XXXIII Super
Bowl XXXIII Super
Bowl XXIII Super Sky Sports 2 6.00 Aerobics (4237238) 6.30 International Cricket (3348290) 10.00 World

Sport Special (2900122), 10.30 Rugby Union (3749238), 12.00 Footbell League Brmingham v Bradford (3180752), 3.00 Cricket (4209734), 6.00 Cricket (#209734), 5.00
Snooker (713073), 9.00
Ford Golf USA (9142325),
12.00 Europeen Tour Golf
Heineken Classic
(5820739), 3.00 Football
League Review (#80604),
4.00 Scottish Football
Cellic v St Johnstone
(715468), 5.00 Close. Shopping (6723604).

(715468). 5.00 Close.

Sky Sports 3
7.30 Futures (65707677).
8.00 Soccer Extra
(9656764). 11.00 Fight
Night (77250290). 1.00
Smooker (92303783). 3.20
Gillette World Sport Special
(42103290). 4.00 Superbouts Laonard v Berritez
(62657702). 8.00 Triethion;
1998 World Cup (19052580).
6.00 Scottish Football St
Johnstone v Cettic Johnstone v Celtic 196159290). 8.30 Spanish Football (98932770). 10.30 Ford Footbal Special Arse-nal v Chalsea. (77274870). 12.00 Close.

Eurosport 7.30 Ski Jumping (11986) 8.00 Bobsiech (67967) 9.00 Nordic Combined Sking (8129257), **9.45** Babsleigh (8639764).

10.30 Tennis (4996509). 2.00 (ce Skating (1292/9). 4.30 Ski Jumping (6509). 6.00 Luge (39305). 7.00 (ce Skating (12615). 9.00 Boxing (5405-4). 10.00 Sportscentre (35305-4). 10.45 Footbalf: UEFA Cup (48306). 1445 Ski her (148306). **11.15** Ski Jumping (668966). **12.30** Close.

UK Gold 7.00 Angels (4847393) 7.30 Blake's Seven (3503325) 8.30 Blake's Seven (2966528) 9.30 Dr Who (35210670) 11.20 Dalas (81393925) 11.20 Dallas (81933325), 1.10
Films: The Magnificent Two (1967) (23941054), 3.00
The Bill (28072702), 5.20
Keeping Up Appearances (7958702), 6.00 (7958702) 6.00
Sallylissangel (68022899).
7.05 The Good Life
(9143325). 7.45 To the
(9143325). 7.45 To the
(9143325). 8.05 Btackadder II (4149580). 9.45
Black-Adder II (3763431).
10.25 Jonathan Creek
(82415219). 11.40 Whatever
rappened to the Likely
Lade? (3158344). 12.20
Ruby Wax Meets. Burl
Reynolds (4317807). 12.55
Teans before Bedtime
(4329642). 1.55 Minder
(4329643). 3.00 - 7.00
Shopping (6723604).

(33755604) 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (6723604).

Living 6.00 Tiny and Crew (4993141) 6.20 Philbert the Prog (29076528) 6.30 Johnson (6489344) 6.45 Tiny Tales (17297561), 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts (17212054) 7.00 Practical Parenting (5572696) 7.05 Professor Bubble (555667) 7.30 Barney and Friends (4511257) 7.55 Practical Parenting (6030122) 8.06 Caillou (6323967) 8.05 Bug Alert (6009870) 8.30 Tiny Tales (7716122) 8.35 Tiny and Crew (8167832) 8.50 Practical Parenting (9609702) 9.05 Carlt Cook, Worlt Cook (6893580) 9.40 Michael Cole (7923948) 10.30 Brookside Omnibus (9377764) 12.30 LA Law (5755764) 2.00 Films: Miracle on 34th Street* (1947) (1550054) 5.00 Special Babbles (8487219) 5.20 Living Issues (190325) 6.00 Films:

Million Dollar Bables (1994) (7890431): **8.00** Rescue 911 (8419431): **8.30** Beyond Belief (8405238): **9.00** Jerry Springer Double Bill (7878219). **11.00** The Sex Files (3921832). **12.00**

TNT 9.00 The Champ (1979) (39494073). 11.30 Gurs for San Sabastian (1968) (99837054). 1.45 The Hunger (1983) (21402642). 3.30 The Golden Arrow (1964) (16356062). **5.00** Close. Paramount Comedy Channel 7.00 Cheless (6122). 7.30 Grace under Fire (6431).

Grace under Fire (6431).
8.00 Rosearne (5870).
8.30 Newsradio (1677).
9.00 Cheers (32344). 9.30 Cheers (47325). 10.00 Taxi (50615). *1.00 Dressing for Breakfast (76031). *1.30 The Larry Sanders Show (56561). 12.00 Duckman (55779). 12.30 Vacant Lot (48159). 1.00 Cornedy Store (2857). 1.30 Club Class (56536). 2.00 Dr (421 (51994). 2.30 Soap (30401). 3.00 Tibs and Fibs (31081). 3.30 Night-stand (54081). 4.00 Close.

Granada Physic Granada Plus 6.00 Jason King (988257). 7.00 Bootsie and Snudge (3446031). 7.20 Nearest and Dearest (9812236). 8.00 Doctor on the Go (511122). 8.30 the Go (Stitt22), 8,300 Dharma and Greg (Stit0483), 9,000 Dempsey and Makepeace (902577), 10,000 Return of the Saint (859180), 11,000 The Return of Sherlock Holmes (4191324), 12,000 The Professionals (8674412), 1,000 Nearest and Dearest (4896572), 1,300 Prioret (886748), 2,000 Prioret (886748), 2,000 Prioret (7811338), 4,000 The High Chaparral (7823073), 5,000 Classic Coronation Street Ormibus (5212783), 7,300 Charma and Greg the Go (5111122), 8,30 Offerna and Greg (3349603) 8.00 Point (525238) 9.00 The Designation of Control



Treasures. Lars Tharp



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(2892238) 9.00 The Professionals (5365702) 10.00 The Odd Couple (5122238) 10.30 Hogaris Heroes (5131986) 11.00 As Granada Men & Motors (4890696) 2.00 Close

RADIO 1

Nightingale.

RADIO 2

(97.6-998MHz FM)

7.00 Mark Goodier. 10.00 Chris

Moyles 1.00 Lisa l'Anson 3.00 Radio 1 s R n B Chart 5.00

Judge Jules. 7.00 Lovegroove Dance Party with Roger Sanchez.

9.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite. 2.00 Essential Mix: Cassius. 4.00 - 6.30 Annie

(88-90.2MHz FM) **6.00** Mo Dutta. **8.05** Brian

Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wright's

Saturday Show, 1.00 The Smith Lectures, 1.30 The Newly Dis-

covered Casebook of Sherlock

Holmes. 2.00 Alan Freeman. 3.30 Johnnie Walker. 5.30 Paul Gambaccini. 7.00 The American

Trilogy. 8.00 Bonnie Raitt in

9.00 CD Review. See Pick of

100 The Radio 3 Lunchtime

3.00 Young Artists' Forum.

5.00 Jazz Record Requests.

6.00 Jazz Century. Russell

6.30 Opera on 3. Puccini's

beautiful but consumptive seamstress Mimi and the poet Rodolfo, set against the back-ground of late-19th-century

bohemian Paris, with the

ambitious daydreams of its

poverty-stricken artists, its lovers'

quarrels, crowded cafe scenes

and lonely garret rooms. This is one of the most heart-rending of

all Puccini's operas, crowned by

the death scene of Mimi. Sung in

Ainhoa Arteta, soprano (Musetta).

Chorus and Orchestra of the Met-

ropolitan Opera, New York/Marco

Italian by Cristina Gallardo-

Armitiato. Acts 1 and 2

Domas, soprano (Mimi), Frank

Lopardo, tenor (Rodolfo) and

touching tale of the love of the

Davies presents a 52-part history

4.00 Classic Masterclass.

12.00 Private Passions.

Rockin' with Suzi Q. 10.00 Bob Harris. 1.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00

Concert. 9.00 Suzi Quatro:

- 7.00 Mo Dutta.

(90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air.

RADIO 3

Concert (R)

2.00 Best of 3.

the Day.

THE WEEKEND REVIEW

The Independent 30 Incviting

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10.30

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SATURDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

David Benedict, takes some time out from the rigours of print journalism to sift through live versions of West Side Story and nominate the most cherishable in CD Review: Building a Library (11am R3). The Saturday Play (2.30pm R4) is hardly a play at all, but

Marking the 350th anniversary

7.30 New York Stories.

The fourth of nine specially

commissioned interval talks for

ists and playwrights who have moved to New York present

Radio 3 in which novelists, essay-

portraits of the city through fiction

Donoghue reflects on his years in

and non-fiction. Distinguished Irish professor of literature Denis

New York, filtered through the

chair he holds - Henry James.

7.55 La boheme, Act 3.

the Parisian background to

9.30 The Brains Trust. Joan

programme in which leading

important intellectual issues.

historian Theodore Zeldin,

organist Gillian Weir.

Guests in this programme are

philosopher Prof Roger Scruton,

10.15 Marc-Antoine Charpentier.

Le Concert Spirituel, conductor

heard music for Vespers by the

great French Baroque composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier, in a

summer's Lufthansa Festival of

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Herve Niquet, perform rarely

concert recorded at last

Baroque Music.

1L30 Jazz on 3.

The vocal and instrumental group

scientist Prof Steven Rose and

Bakewell chairs the discussion

minds in the fields of art, science,

religion and philosophy debate

8.20 Bohemian Paris.

Puccinis setting. (R)

8.45 La boheme, Act 4.

perspective of the writer whose

Christopher Prendergast explores

THIS PAPER'S theatre editor, of the execution of Charles 1, "Justice or Murder" mixes transcripts of the 1647 Putney Debates and the trial of Charles I with the views of academics. The Archive Hour (8pm R4)

looks at the way women have tackled Shakespearean roles male and female - from the earliest recording onwards. is compelling none the less. Fiona Shaw (right) presents. DOMINIC CAVENDISH

RADIO 4

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 News Briefing.

6.05 Sports Desk.

6.10 Open Country. 6.57 Weather.

7.00 Today. 9.00 Home Truths.

11.30 From Our Own

12.55 Weather.

115 Any Questions?.

5.00 Saturday PM. 5.30 Talking Pictures.

5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

7.00 News; Saturday Review.

7.45 Gerry's Bar. It is opening

time again. Join Gerry Anderson

for a final round of extraordinary

8.00 News; The Archive Hour.

Shakespeare's time, female roles

were played by boys. In the 1990s, Fiona Shaw played the lead role in 'Richard II'. Here, she

considers the way women have

since the advent of recorded

approached acting Shakespeare

Shakespearean Women. In

6.15 Live from London.

tales from ordinary life.

1.00 News.

010 0444.

Correspondent. 12.00 News; Money Box.

2.00 News; Any Answers? 0870

2.30 News; The Saturday Play: Justice or Murder. See Pick of

the Day. 4.00 News; Woman's Hour.

10.00 News; Loose Ends.



sound, from the days when Ellen Terry dominated the Edwardian stage to classic radio performances by Edith Evans, Flora Robson, Dorothy Tutin and Judi Dench. See Pick of the Day. 9.00 News; The Classic Serial: Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands. By Jorge Amado, dramatised in three parts by 11.00 News; Food Programme. Stuart Morris. 2: 'Lips that Kiss'. In Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, seven years of tempestuous but 12.30 The Ghost of Number Ten.

passionate marriage to the dissolute Vadinho have left the young widow Dona Flor aching with loss and desire. With Lesiey Carvell and Tristan Sturrock. 10.00 News and Weather. 10.15 The Moral Maze. The twohundredth edition launches the new series. Michael Buerk, Janet Daley, David Starkey, Ian Harg-reaves and David Cook investi-

gate the moral questions behind the week's news. 11.00 News; Scaling the Mountain. Robert Dawson Scott invites a performer or composer to revisit a major musical challenge. 11.30 Parkes and Gardens. (R) 12.00 News. 12.25 Experimental Feature:

Star Tales. (R) 12.30 The Late Story: Spinach

Seduction. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. **5.35** Shipping Forecast. **5.40** Inshore Forecast. 5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Dirty Tackle. 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Chiles on Saturday. 11.00 Move It. 11.30 Sick as a Parrot. 12.00 Sportscall 1.00 Sport on 5. **5.06** Six-O-Six B.00 Dallyn UK. 9.00 The Treatment. 10.00 Late Night Currie. 1.00 Up All Night 3.00 - 6.00 Australian Open

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas. 8.00 Count-down. 11.00 Masters of Their Art. 12.00 Mike Read. 3.00 Margaret Howard, 6.00 Classic FM at the Movies. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Midnight Music. 2.00 Evening Concert. 4.00 - 6.00 Sunday Start. VIRGIN RADIO

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00 Richard Allen, 9.00 Harriet Scott. 12.00 Classic Countdown with Russ Williams. 2.00 Rock and Roll Football 5.30 Wheels of Steel 10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 Steve Power. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO**

(198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Best on Record. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Agenda. 3.00 World News. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Review. 3.45 Letter from America. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Omnibus. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 - 6.00 Women Who Dared to Speak.

TALK RADIO 6.00 OK to Talk. 8.00 Danny Baker's Morning Edition. 12.00 Tom Watt's Football Phone-In. 2.00 Saturday Soccer with Richard Keys. 5.05 505 with Gary Newborn. 7.30 Nancy Roberts. 10.00 Dave Barrett's Phone-In with the Midnight Psychic. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin

Bug Alert (6559634), 7.55 Parenting

(6356295). **8.05** Tiny and Crew (6355566). **8.10** Philbert (3693108), **8.15**

Polka Dot (6006214). 8.30 Tiny Tales

Cook, Won't Cook (7765498). 9.35

(7749450), 8.35 Tiny and Crew (8190160), 8.50 Parenting (9623030), 9.05 Can't

Ready, Steady, Cook (6968360). 10.10 Maury Povicti (6013943). 11.00 Living is-

sues (6636450). 11.30 Roseanne Show

(2224566), 12.30 LA Law (5788092).

(6023450). **8.00** Greedysaurus

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

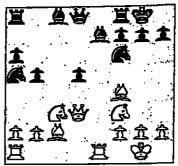
WHEN THE two best players in the world play each other it's worth taking notice, even if the game itself appears rather slight. Viswanathan Anand held Gary Kasparov as Black in the 10th round at Wijk aan Zee on Thursday with apparently effortless ease; but beneath the surface a drama burned, much of it before the game had even begun.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Kramnik played a long clean technical game eventually to grind down Timman and move up on Anand's shoulder just half a point adrift; and Ivan Sokolov, with confidence replenished after a fine victory against Kasparov, won his second game in a row against Loek Van Wely.

With just three rounds to go, the scores were Kasparov 8, Anand 7, Kramnik 6.5, Ivanchuk and Svidler 5.5. Sokolov. Shirov. Piket and Topolov 5, Timman 4.5, Kasimdzhanov and Yermolinsky 3.5 and Reinderman 2. And though Kasparov faced a reasonably tough finish with Kramnik, Svidler and Timman while Anand had Topalov, Van Wely and Yermolinsky, it would be a brave man indeed who bet against Kasparov winning outright.

In the diagram, Anand had played 14 ...g6 against Miguel Illescas in the sixth game of their match in Leon last year and after 15 Rxe7 Qxe7 16 Bg5 Qd6 17 Qd4 Nh5 18 Nxd5 Nc6! he beat off the attack and won. But Anand himself says that, two hours beforehand, his second, Elizbar Ubilava, told him there was a huge gap in that line.

It certainly isn't obvious; even armed with this information, I can't 11 Bf4 Na5 immediately see what he's on about. 12 Bc2 b5



But presumably Kasparov too had found the weakness and so Anand took evasive action: "Fortunately, I had a cop-out line. The only thing that worried me was that I hadn't had the time to check it. But it worked out all right."

Kasparov spent some time trying to refute 14 ... Nc6 and then settled for a draw. Of course not 15 ... Qxc7? 16 Nxd5 Nxd5 17 Qxh7 mate. At the end 22 ... Rb8 23 Ne7+ Kh8 24 Qxd8 Rxd8 25 Nxc8 Rdxc8 26 Rxa6 Rxb2 is dead equal but not 22 ... Ra7? 23 Qe3! winning material.

White: Gary Kasparov Black: Viswanathan Anand

Queen's Gambit Accepted 1 d4 d5 13 d5 exd5 14 Qd3 (see 2 c4 dxc4 3 Nf3 a6 diagram) Nc6 4 e3 e6 15 Bc7 Qd7 5 Bxc4 c5 16 Ne5 Nxe5 6 0-0 Nf6 17 Bxe5 g6 7 Bb3 cxd4 18 Bxf6 Bxf6 8 exd4 Nc6 19 Nxd5 Bg7 9 Nc3 Be7 20 a4 bxa4 10 Rei 0-0 21 Bxa4 Qd8 22 Bc6 1/2-1/2

North-South game; dealer South

BRIDGE

BOTH NORTH and East had exciting plans in mind for developing the bidding on this deal when South opened One Spade, but neither was given much scope when West overcalled with Four Hearts. A double, followed by a totally accurate defence, via a trump promotion, could have led to a penalty of 1,100 points but North decided to go for the big money by raising to Six Spades. That kept East quiet. As the play developed, South made two bad errors - can you spot them both?

First, the events at the table.

West led ♡K against the slam and dummy's ace was ruffed - the first setback. East returned a low diamond and, forced to finesse, South breathed a sigh of relief when dummy's ten won. With the general plan of ruffing his losing clubs on the table, declarer cashed A, came to hand with the king of trumps, ruffed a club, returned to Q, and trumped another club. At this point South could ruff a heart in hand and draw the last trump but this would have left him with a losing diamond. Accordingly he repeated the diamond finesse, but now West was able to ruff and defeat the contract. When you think about it, it was not a very good plan, for as West had already shown up with three spades, seven hearts, a diamond and two clubs, there was not much room for a second diamond...

North **♠**AJ95 CA8632 ♦J 104 ₽A East West ♥KQJ10954♥none OK98532 **+**Q 109542 **♣**J8 South **◆**K Q 10 7 4 ٧7 OAQ6 - **♣**K763

·) ·

Declarer's first mistake lay in playing ♥A at trick 1. After allowing West's ♥K to win, he can ruff another heart lead and now has plenty of time to draw trumps and later finesse in diamonds. Later, as the play had started and the diamond finesse had succeeded, a dummy reversal would have averted the danger of the second (and fatal) ruff. He should have ruffed a heart in hand at trick three, crossed to A. and ruffed another heart. Dummy is re-entered with a trump and a third heart ruffed. Now South can overtake his last spade in dummy, draw West's remaining trump and, with the lead on the table, finesse safely in diamonds to land his contract.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER

6.05 A Christmas Carol (1984) (27678856). **8.00** Legend of the Ruby Silver (1996) (75092). **10.00** First Do No Harm (1997) (34672). 12.00 Problem Child 2 (1991) (98943). 2.00 Legend of the Ruby Silver (1996) (75943). 4.00 First Do No Harm (1997) (3295). **6.00** Problem Child 2 (1991) (98092). **7.30** p:review (7127). 8.00 The Lost World (1997) (39412856). See Pick of the Day. 10.30 Donnie Brasco (1997) (72958276), 12.15 Lone Star (1996) (82958141). 2.25 Riders of the Purple Sage (1996) (813702). 4.05 -SKY MOVIEMAX

7.00 El News Week in Review (25585).

7.30 Action Heroes (99932). 8.00 Movie Magic (87653). 9.00 Jules Verne's 800 Leagues down the Amazon (1994) (97214). 11.00 Spy Hard (1996) (64108). 1.00 El News Week in Review (24856). 1.30
Action Heroes (8815011). See Pick of the Day. 2.15 Movie Magic (3364363). 3.00 Jules Verne's 800 Leagues down the Amazon (1994) (89566). 5.00 Malaika (1997) (80363), **7.00** Spy Hard (1996) (49491), **9.00** Youngblood (1986) (6865) 11.00 Hostile Intent (1997) (60950). 12.30 Masquerade (1988) (776870). 2.05 One Hot Summer Night (1997) (5777667). 3.35 6.00 Hanussen (1988) (82798528).

SKY CINEMA 11.00 The Hustler (1961) (21515672). 1.15 World for Ransom (1954) (85231566). 2.40 Abandon Ship (1957) (31466092). 4.15 Advise and Consent (1962) (73504566). 6.30 Mr and Mrs Smith (1941) (3465496). 8.00 The Man Who Would Be King (1975) (78445160). 10:15 Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989) (9619721). 12.00 The Naked Runner (1967) (5167865). 1.45 Monsteur Regunaline (1946) (4027122). 3.20 The Hustler (1961) (66404899). 5.30

FILMFOUR 6.00 Godzila vs King Ghidorah (1991) (7784363). 8.00 Betore Sunrise (1995) (7796108). 10.00 Twelve Monkeys (1995) 298479), 12.10 La Jetee (1962) 598126). 12.40 Salon Kitty (1976) 9060851). 2.10 The Crow (1994) (84467967), 4.45 - 6.00 Short Attention Span Cinema (5824073). **DISCOVERY CHANNEL** 4.00 Battle for the Skies (6078818). 5.00 A Century of Wartare (1823295). 6.00 A Century of Warfare (4324030), 7.00

Ocean Cities (9758566). 8.00 Storm

MANY SEQUELS disappoint, as The Man Without a Face but The Lost World: Jurassic and Hamlet, try as he might to Park (8pm Sky Premier, right) escape it, Mel Gibson will always

PICK OF THE DAY

exceeds expectations, if only be known as an action man, as because in the years since the today's profile, Action Heroes first outing, the special effects (1.30pm Sky Moviemax), ably have become even more breath- proves. Although he can play a taking Jeff Goldblum (from the quiet hard man like Mad Max original) and Julianne Moore Rockatansky with conviction, lead the human battle against he is at his most popular as a rampaging dinosaurs in Steven rabble-rousing anti-hero in films Spielberg's satellite premiere. such as Lethal Weapon and He has made forays into art- Braveheart. house territory with films such

Force (9767214) 9.00 Snow Coaches

(9747450), 10.00 Forensic Detectives

7.00 Bump in the Night (4949). 7.30

Simpsons (94566). 9.30 Garfield and Friends (38498). 10.00 Xena: Warrior

Federation Live Wire (28572), 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun

(11721), 1.00 The New Adventures of Superman (37769), 2.00 Americals

America's Dumbest Criminals (3924).

3.00 Guityi (40769). 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (29276). 5.00 Star

Trek: Voyager (4491). 6.00 Xana: Warrior Princess (17905). 7.00 The Simpsons

(1450). 7.30 The Simpsons (1189). 8.00 JAG (70488). 9.00 Films: Big Trouble In Little China (1986) (43025721). 10.45 Beet the Crusher (431837). 11.45 Showbiz

Weekly (282363). 12.15 The Big Easy (445561). 1.15 Fire (474073). 2.15 • 6.00

6.00 H2O (46653). 6.30 European Tour Goff - Heineken Classic (623214). 9.30

Racing News (90837). 10.00 NFL Super Bowl XXXIII Preview (34769). 10.30

Gillette World Sport Special (52189), TLOO

Long Play (74294306).

SKY SPORTS 1

Dumbest Criminals (7634). 2.30

Street Sharks (19924). 8.00 The Adventures of Sinbed (87547). 9.00 The

Princess (15108), 11.00 World Wrestling

(3351325). 1.00 Weapons of War

(2944306). 2.00 Close.

SKY ONE

(9757837). 11.00 A Century of Warfare

(6585473). 12.00 A Century of Warfare

JAMES RAMPTON

Max Power (60672), 12,00 Gillette Soccar Saturday (3201295), 5.30 Footbal Scrap-book (55382), 7.00 Budweiser Basketball (52653). **9.00** Saturday Fight Night (34045). **11.00** Spanish Football (42059). 1.00 European Tour Golf (8296870). 4.00 6.00 Saturday Fight Night (72431). SKY SPORTS 2

6.00 Moto-plus (4260566), 6.30 H2O (2959496), **7.00** Aerobics (9121450), **7.30** Racing News (9140585), **8.00** Soccer AM (7579011), **12.00** World Tenoin Bowling Masters (7152301), **1.00** NFL Super Bowl XXXII Preview (9120721). 1.30 Rugby Union: Tetley's Bitter Cup (2858301). 4.00 Max Power (2266672). 5.00 European Tour Goff - Heineken Classic (7142585). 8.00 Ford Golf USA (7133837). 11.00 international Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (5930547). 1.00 Rugby Union Up-date Tetley's Bitter Cup Fifth Round (3738122), 2.30 - 6.00 Cricket (2927615).

SKY SPORTS 3 8.00 Hold the Back Page (67559214). 9.00 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (52225585), 12,30 Second hrnings (88561721). 1.00 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (87418127). 4.30 NFL Super Bowl XXXIII Preview (42157837), 5,00 Snooker (76025127). 10.00 Rugby Union: Tetley's Bitter Cup (50182059). 11.30 NFL Super Bowl XXXII Preview (13366566), 12,00

EUROSPORT 7.30 Snowboarding (46092), 8.00 Bob-



sleigh (47943). 9.00 Ski Jumpina Seign (47943); 9.00 Ski Juriphi (8152585); 9.45 Bobsleigh (8662092); 10.30 Tennis (59360); 12.30 Ice Skating (4932301); 4.00 Bobsleigh (8634); 4.30 Ski Jumping (15295); 6.00 Luge (97740); 7.00 Ice Skating (47727); 9.00 Dancing 7.00 ice Skating (47721). 9.00 Dancing (93363). 11.00 Aerobics (43905). 12.00 UK GOLD

7.00 Angels (6785671). 7.30 Neighbours (89308194). 9.25 Dallas (30245450). 12.10 EastEnders (47295363), 3.00 The Bill 6.05 Film: North Sea Hijack (1980) (10729092), 8.00 The Detectives 2282059), 8,40 Carrott's Commercial Breakdown 3 (79077653). 9.45 The Thin Blue Line (3703059). 10-25 One Foot in the Grave (2661450). 11.05 Monty Python's Flying Circus (3406127). 11.45 The Man from Austile (3181943), 12.25 French and Saunders (5749509). 1.05 The Man from Auntie (3388493). 1.40 ter (1185986). 2.15 Open Al Hours (7716967), 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping

LIVING 6.00 Tiny and Craw (49123769). 6.20 Philbert (29009856), **6.30** Johnson and Friends (64807672). **6.45** Tiny Tales (17231189). 6.50 Polka Dot (17245382). 7.00 Practical Parenting (5505924), 7.05 10 plus 2 (6679634). 7.20 Bedtime Stories (5585160), 7.25 Tiny and Crew '98 (5524059), 7.30 Callou (5419498), 7.35

3.00 Film: Song of Bernadette (1943) bies (1994) (7830059). B.00 Rescue 911 (8459059), 8.30 Beyond Bellef (8438566) 9.00 Jerry Springer (7801547). 11.00 The Sex Files (3954160), 12,00 Close. TNT 9.00 Welcome to Hard Times (1967) (40550498). **11.00** Zigzag (1970) 1217459241 1.00 Fearless Vamoure Killers

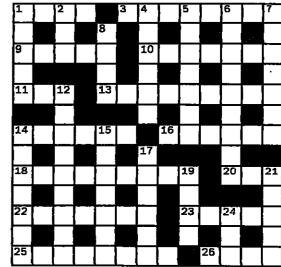
(1967) (21703948). 3.00 Welcome to Hard Times (1967) (94332716). 5.00 Close. PARAMOUNT **COMEDY CHANNEL** 7.00 Clueless (8382). 7.30 Grace under Fire (1721). 8.00 Roseanne (7030). 8.30

Newsradio (3837). 9.00 Cybil (74740). 9.30 Seinfeld (12059). 10.00 Film: Purple Rose of Catro (1985) (64059), \$1.30 Larry Sanders (21295). 12.00 Duckman (84493), 12.30 Vacant Lot (70702), 1.00 Cornedy Store (27832), 1.30 Club Class (64851), 2.00 Dr Katz (67509), 2.30 Soap (79344). 3.00 Tibs and Fibs (47696). 3.30 Nightstand (60696). 4.00 Close. **GRANADA PLUS**

6.00 Jason King (9992585). 7.00 Bootsie and Snudge (5646419). 7.30 Leave It to Charlie (6191504). 8.00 Holding the Fort (5144450). 8.30 Mind Your Language (5143721). **9.00** Mission: Impossible (9059585). **10.00** The Persuaders (5856128). 11.00 Man in a Suitcase (7834452). **12.00** The Bounder (5154837). **12.30** Emmerdale (3484856). **3.00** Bonanza (7844566). 4.00 The High Chaparral (7856301), 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (5894479), 6.00 The Persuaders (8803924). **7.00** Mission: Impossible (5276818). **8.00** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (5285566), 9.00 El CID (5298030). 10.00 The Odd Couple (5155566). 10.30 Hogaris Heroes (5164214), 11.00 As Granada Men & Motors until 200am (4823924), 2.00 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3833 Saturday 30 January



ACROSS

Sheep (4) Plenitude (8) Plump (5)

10 Flightless bird (7) Newspaper (3) 13 Person using violent methods for political ends (9)

14 Problem (6) 16 Inequitable (6) 18 Tool for burning off paint

20 Finish (3) 22 Italian wine (7)

23 Cutting utensil (5) 25 Musical show (8) 26 Sense (4)

Arbiter (6) English city (7) Make clear (9) Statesman (7) Small island (4) 12 Endow with superficial attraction (9) Cigarette ingredient (7) 15 Understanding (7) 17 Painter etc (6) 19 Ramble (4)

Go in (5)

Decline (3)

21 Reside (5) 24 Anger (3)

Selution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Shandy, 4 Leers (Chandeliers), 8 Imply, 9 Operate, 10 Omiczon, 11 Heal, 12 Tab, 14 Ema, 15 Itch, 18 Keg, 21 Earl, 23 Landing, 25 Lacquer, 26 Cairo, 27 Moody, 28 League, DOWN 1 Sailor, 2 Appoint, 3 Daybreak, 4 Leek, 5 Erase, 6 Seemly, 7 Count, 13 Binnacle, 16 Ceiling, 17 Vellum, 19 Glare, 20

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND BBC1 N HIELLAND As BBC1 England except: 1.55 European Cup Rugby Build-up (86148276). 2.25 Rugby Union - European Cup Final (469295). S.25 Newsine (8051856). 11.45 European Cup Rugby Special Ulster v Colomiers (12740). 12.30 Film: 30 Is a Perspense Age Cymthia. Dudiey Moore Dangerous Age, Cynthia. Dudley Moore as nightclub planist Rupert Street, desperate to achieve his twin ambitions tassperate to achieve its twin amunorist to write a musical and to get married – it the six weeks remaining before his 30th birthday, Modish, moderately amusing Swinging '60s comedy. (6451561). 2.00 Top of the Pops (9494122).

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 England except: 4.40
Afternoon Sportscane (4284653), 5.25
Reporting Scotland (8051856), 10.35
Sportscane - Match of the Day (3800011). **BBC1 WALES**

As BBC1 England except: 4.40 Final Score (9693092), 4.55 Wales on Saurday - the Results (9612127), 5.25 Wales on Saturday (1585059), 11.45 Snooker (811059), 12.45 Film: The Grissom Geng (46717509), 2.50 As BBC1 (4298073), 2.55 Tennis - the Australian ANGLIA
As LWT except: 12.30 Prate TV
(78.92): 1.05 Anglia News and Weather
(94038059): 1.40 Champions of the
Future (58.83924): 2.10 Countdown to
Tomorrow (24.43653): 3.05 Film: The Bit
Cosby Mystery Movie (31874419): 5.05
Anglia News and Sport (2728672): 8.40
News; Weekend Weather (26.9824): 2.55
Box Office America (7373615): 3.20
World Football (9824123): 3.50 CD UK
(98816.11 4.45 Soundtrax (98954325). (8681141). 4.45 Soundtrax (88954325). 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (1202561).

CENTRAL CENTRAL
As LWT except: 12-30 Premiere
(78092). 1.05 Central News and Weather
(94038059). 1.40 Early Edition (9453030).
2.30 Film: Coal Miner's Daughter. Occar
winner Sissy Spacek as Kentucky country
music star Loretta Lynn, standing by her
man Tommy Lee Jones in sturdy biopic.
(48685382). 5.05 Central News, Weather (4:685382). 5.05 Central News, Weather and Goals Extra (2728672). 8.40 News; National Lottery Update; Weather (269524). 3.55 Jobfinder (4129696). 5.00 Spotlight Asia (91986).

HTV WALES As LWT except: 12.30 Movies. Games and Videos (78092). 1.90 News Headines; National Weather (94099160). 1.05 HTV News (94038059). 1.40 Pirate TV (6583924). 2.10 Airwolf (2443653). 3.05 seaQuest DSV (2743382). 3.55 3.05 Seatulest DSV (2743382) 3.55 RoboCop (5439127) 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sport (2728672), 2.55 Box Office America (7373615), 3.26 World Football (98241239), 3.56 CD UK (8681141), 4.45 Soundtrax (88954325), 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (1202561), HTV WEST

As HTV Wests except: 12.30 Sportsweek (78092). 1.00 News; Weath (94099180). 1.40 Movies, Garnes and Videos (65833924). 2.10 Pirate TV (22656498). 2.40 The Making of the Siege (8015479). 5.05 HTV West News and Sport (2728672). 8.40 News Headlines; National Weather (269924). MERIDIAN

MERIDIAN
As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs
(78082, 1.05 Meridian News and
Weather (94038059, 1.40 Champions of
the Future (65833924), 2.10 Pirate TV
(22656498), 2.40 Film: The One That Got
Away, Hardy Kruger, British chemats
(avourite German In the 1950s, as
Luftwaffe pilot Franz von Werra, captured Luftwaffe plot Franz von Werra, capture after crashing near an RAF station in 1940. Strickingly arrogant, he bets the interrogating officer that he will affect an

escape within stx months. (65964498). 5.05 Meridian News (2728672). 2.55 Box Office America (7373615). 3.20 World Football (98241239). 3.50 CD UK (8681141). 4.45 Soundtrax (88954325). 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (1202561). WESTCOUNTRY

WESTCOUN! 12.30 Movies.
As LWT except: 12.30 Movies.
Games and Videos (78092): 1.05
Westcountry News (94038059): 1.40
Dinosaurs (65833924): 2.10 Firm: Murder by the Book, Meek-mannered mystery writers after ego helps him solve a murder case involving a damsel in distress and a take antiques scam. Fanciful crime caper remained unrelease for over a year. With Robert Hays. Catherine Mary Stawart. (340721). 3.55 TimeCop (5439127). 5.05 Westcountry News (2728672) 8.40 News; Weekend Weather (269924), 2.55 Box Office America (7373615), 3.20 World Football (98241239). 3.50 CD UK (8681141). 4.45 Soundtrax (88954325). 4.55 ITV Nightscreen (1202561).

YORKSHIRE As LWT accept: 12.30 Dinosaurs (78092). 1.05 Headines (94038059). 5.05 Calendar News Headines (8026160). 5.10 Goals Extra (5921030).

TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except: 1.05 North East News and Weather (94038059). 5.05 North East News and Weather (8026160). 5.10 Full Time (5921030). S4C

As Channel 4 except: 5.05 Newyddion (83308586). 5.10 Y Clwb Rygbi (50600818). 7.45 Newyddion a Chwaraeon (53104382). 8.00 Mardi Gras (57574894). 9.00 O Fiaen Dy Lygaid (87572756). 10.00 Fian: Toral Toral Toral Events leading to the Japanese air attack Events leading to the Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbour. The political and on Pearl Harbour. The political and military bungling on both sides is faithfully recorded and the attack itself is an astonishing display of explosive destruction. With Martin Balsam, Jason Robards. (40075189). 12-25 4 Later: Exploitica - Sci-fi Mutants (57650702). 12-55 4 Later: Married a Strange Person (65516290). 2:10 Film: 4 Later: The Curious Dr Hump'. Adult sci-fi tale about nobot-lice monsters who abduct humans for the crazy Dr Hump, whose aphrodisiac normula turns them into sex machines. With Ricardo Baukeo, Gloria Prat. With Ricardo Beuleo, Gloria Prat. (30312696). 3.50 4 Later: Pop-Up Video (5160985). 4.15 NYPD Blue (64033702). 5.40 Close.

ATURDAY

JASPER

TELEVISION REVIEW REES

EDUCATION has been

part heroin-screws-you-up infomercial. The two teenagers who run away from home are driven out by strains in their relationship with their parents. The boy, Tar, has an alcoholic mother and a violent father (a teacher: no doubt the boys and girls at school sniggered at that one). The girl, Jemma, has a doormat for a mother and a father who can't bear to let her drift away from him into sadulthood. The parents were all

BBC1

7.00 The Munsters (R) (T) (2473011), 7.25 No. (2287130). 7.30 The Incredible Hulk (R) (27 Hero Turtles – the Next Mutation (S) (27785 New Adventures of Supermen (R) (S) (T) (5 9.00 Live and Kicking (S) (76021059).

Z

9.45 Kiss No Kate. Office-based sitcom with Caroline Quentin. A client offers to introduce Kate (Quentin) to her all-time hero – presumably not Paul Merton (R) (S) (T) (853837).

11.48 IIIM The Orissom Gang (Robert Aldrich 1971 US). Hyped-up, blackly funny version of the 1948 film No Orchids for Miss Blandish, with a 1930s Kansas heirass being kidnapped by a bunch of outlaw grotesques, whose leader (Scott Wilson) falls in love with her (44393856).

1.50 Top of the Pops (S) (T) (6206685). **2.20** What a Carry On! (R) (5496344).

10.36 Match of the Day. Highlights of Coventry versus Liverpool. The studio analysts, Alan Hansen and Mark Lawrenson, might just be a tad biased... Plus all the rest of the day's action and goals (S) (T) (3800011).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LEARNING DISABILITY

if someone in your family has a

2.50 Tennis - the Australian Open. Highlights of the men's singles (inal (S) (28362686).

PROFILE OF THE DAY

If someone in your family has a learning disability ('mental handicap'), he or she needs security – not just now, but in the future when you're no longer here. Mencap, the UK's leading charity for people with learning disabilities, is offering a FREE booklet called Leaving money by will to people with learning disabilities. The booklet explains how you can secure your dependant's future and how to avoid pitfulls such as unintentionally reducing their entitlement to benefits.

Or phone FREE, quoting reference: 153

Marion Young, Mencap, Room 153
FREEPOST, 123 Golden Lanc, London EC1B 1AA.

BOORMAN (1030pm BBC2) A trio of Lee Marvin films on BBC2 today is accompanied by this offering from John Boorman (right), who directed Marvin in two of the movies, Point Blunk and Hell in the Pacific. And it was a helish moment in the Pacific – when, as a US Martine, Marvin was badly wounded invading the island of Salpan – that apparently haunted the actor throughout his Hollywood years. Others contributing are Marvin's widow, Pamela, William Hurt this

lo receive your FREE copy. just write to:

10 News; Weather (T) (6413479). 12.15 Grandstand (S) (6405450). 12.20 Football Focus (7833214). 1.10 Racing from Ayr (73138856). 1.25 Rugby Preview (73128479). 1.40 Racing from Ayr (86158653). 1.55 Athletics (86148276). 2.10 Racing from Ayr (10744585). 2.25 Athletics (35633769). 2.35 Rugby Union -- European Cup Final: Ulster vs Colomiers (9313721). 3.25 Athletics (2424108). 3.35 Rugby Union (5433943). 4.20 Athletics (6478859). 4.40 Final Score (4284653).

News; Weather (T) (5802905), 5.25 Regional News and Weather (8051856).

'Allo 'Allo! Croft and Perry's wartime Resistance pento. Altempts are made to rescue Maria from Vott Klinkerhoffen (R) (T) (450).

6.00 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. Jim and Moi revivo classic moments from the 1998 sarios, including Davidson's appearance as Elion John, Rod Stowart und the Spice Girls. Oh, how we laughed (S) (925/89).

Noel's House Party. Bearded chap and his house of fun (S) (T) (699547).

7.40 The National Lottery Draw. Duran Duran and M. People serenade the would-be millionaires. Date Winton is ringmaster (S) (T) (232450).

8.05 Casualty. A man returning from Thalland with his new wife suffers stomach pains and sickness, and X-rays reveal that his condition is caused by more than just a stomach bug. Meanwhills, Chloe is anxious that Sean will give away their secret (S) (T) (505769).

Sunburn. More from the British holiday reps drama set in Cyprus. Nickl (that's Michelle Collins to you and I) tries to make peace with Carol when she asks her to organise the last-minute wedding of two holidaymakers (S) (T) (934618).

10.16 News; Weather (T) (252295).

3.10 One Man and His Dog (8407072), **3.40** Spince 1999 (S) (T) (5412450), **4.30** Ico-Skaling (S) (0560053).

5.45 TOTP 2. Phil Collins, Shalaana, The Fagoes, The Cares and Shoud O'Comer from the archives (8) (7388198).

6.00 Animat Minds. Interviows with expects who balknothed beas have minds, pygnny chihyanzase have integlinary friends and dolphins are capable of self-awareness (S) (T) (283092).

6.50 Trado Secrets. Gollers' secrets (H) (S) (T) (88.450-4).

400 News and Sport; Woathor (T) (253818)

7.45 Correspondent. Kale Adle roturns to Bosnia to full how, during the war, ITN connectment Sobastian Rich tried to save the life of a little girl dying of leukaomia. And Phil Rees reports from the railway lines along the india-Pakistan border where bombs are discovered eliment Asilu (S) 10/10/2100

8.00 What the Papers Say. Peter Hitchens of The Express reviews the week's newspapers (S) (927301)

8.10 Gentury Road. This week's Century Road is in Oldbury, in the heart of the Black Country, Fifty years ago, 450 local bus crews went on sirike rather than wowith an indian conductor. But today, Century Road is a peeceful and multi-cultural efreet (S) (1) (693924).

9.00 IGIOIGH Point Blank (John Boorman 1967 US). Eat your heart out, Tarantino, as Boorman's directorial debut sends Lee Marvin looking for revenge. See Film of the Dey, below (2382).

10.30 [PIUIGE] Lee Marvin - a Personal Portrait by John Boorman. The British film-maker, who directed Marvin in both Point Blank and Hell in the Pacific, presents his view of the actor. See Profile of the Day,

Les Marvin and Toshiro Milune play an American Gl and a Japanese soldier respectively stranded on a Second World War Pacific Island - neither speaking a word of the full of Toshiro Milune grunting and Lee Marvin muttoring to himself?" remarked the critic Pauline Kael (848562).

210

1.00 1311 Verboten! (Samuel Fuller 1959 US). Typically full-on Fuller saga about an American soldier who falls in love with a German girl (with a neo-Nazi brotter) in neo-Nazi brother) in ew) (9571870).To 2.30anı

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Strategy on the Screen (1) (5254498), 6.45 Musée du Louvre (1) (9378547), 7.35 Open Advice (1) (3358127), 8.00 Weekend 24 (5) (43189), 9.00 Personal Pastions (5937943), 9.15 Open Seturday (5) (1) (5571504), 10.35 Cyber Art - Sound Tracks (2161818), 10.40 See Hearl (5) (4217059), 11.25 Tennis - the Australian Open (5) (1767479), 12.10 Food and Drink (3) (1) (1644011),

12.40 [AIII] Paint Your Wagon (Joshua Logan 1969 US). The first of three Lee Marvin films today is not what you'd call a typical Marvin vehicle, with the stony-faced one breaking into song (the hit "Waud'rin' Star" most gold prospectors who share the same woman (Jean Selberg). The other prospector is, of course, Clint Eastwood, who also sings (5) (1) (7/3/15905).

19h a woman (7374108).

Don't Try This at Home! First the good news. No name Darron Day, who is otherwise engaged. Now the bad nows. This is the same old laboured nonsense in which members of the public are challenged to perform dangerous acts (although, obviously, not that dangerous). Daving McCall hosts (S) (T) (830547).

Bilnd Date. Does anyone alse feel that this show has run its course? Anyhow, Clita Black finds out how Alexandra and Marcus fared in Hungary, and how Matthew and Lisa got on in Malta. Plus eight more people unafraid of public humiliation (S) (T) (588092).

Inspector Morse. "The Way through the Woods" multiple-murder suspect is killed while on remand, and the body of a fifth victim is discovered together with a posicard showing a Pre-Raphaelite painting. John The

ITV Carlton

10 GMTV (6237214).

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (34382)

Channel

hannel

Early Edition (7) (4963011), 4.48 ITN News; Sports Itersulls; Woother (T) (9601011), 5.08 London Weekend Tanight (T) (2728672).

Broaking the Magician's Code 2. How to make during disappear and how to shool an errow harmlessly

Family Fortunes. The Catstree family from Huddersfield play the Anseil family from Cardif (S) (T) (238081).

ITN News; Weather; Lottery Result (1) (269824).

nassed ranks of waiting film critics to clean up at the ox office and at the Oscers. Its risible, of course, but ist about works on its own terms. Costner is the uicidal Yankle soldier who assimilates with the Sloux idians (who, in real life, made Costner a full tribel rember) (S) (52466130). 11.20 4 Later: Exploitica - Sci-fl Mutants (767585) 11.50 4 Later: I Married a Strange Person (347585). III 4 Later: The Curlous Dr Hump (Emilio Vieyra 1967 Arg). And curlous is the word for this Argentinian entry in C4's Exploitica season. Something

Fhe Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (7524832), **2.55** 30x Office America (R) (7364967), **3.25** World Football 51167780), **3.55** CD UK (S) (1175615), **4.45** ITV Nightscreen (5906899), **5.30** News (29528). To 6am,

SMTV Live. Babylon Zoo, Imalin and Paul Hendy and Kate Thornton from *Don't Try This at Home* are the guests (S) (56798566).

30 CD UK (S) (54566), 12.30 The Food Factory (78092), 1.00 News; Weather (94099160), 1.05 London Weekend Today (94038059), 1.10 On the Ball (82009824),

7.00 T4: Bush Tales (R) (S) (5652740). 7:10 A Box Full of Stories (5658924). 7:20 Animal Alphabet (1647491). 7:30 Pippi Longstocking (R) (S) (T) (60634). 8:00 T4: Transworld Sport (R) (61585). 9:00 Morning Line (S) (64011). 10:00 Inside Rugby with Thierry Lacroix (66818). 11:00 Gazzetta Football Italia (R) (T) (78382). 12:00 Board Stupid Goes Skiling (41450). 12:30 High 5 (R) (76634). 1:00 The Vibe (T) (80498). 1:30 The Cosby Show (R) (T) (75905).

UK). The guerrilla campaign against the British in 1950s Cyprus didn't inspire many movies, and it would be hard to call this heavily-involved saga inspired. Dirk Bogarde is good, though, as the British intelligence agent given the task of tracking down the leader of a group of terrorists and finding himself failing for American Cypriot Susan Strasberg (29036856).

5.05 2.00 Channel 4 Racing from Cheltenham and Doncaster, Lesley Graham and Derek Thompson Introduce the 220, 2.55, 3.30, 4.05 and 4.40pm races from Cheltenham and the 2.35, 3.10, 3.45 and 4.20pm from Doncaster (98553653).

Brookside. All last week's Mersey misery in full. Niamh is strangely optimistic about the future for a resident of the Close, even though Joey views it with dread. Sinbad's out in the cold with nowhere to go. Susannah brings her baby home (R) (S) (T) (9526837).

5.55 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (4264030).

7.00 Right to Reply. Roger Bolton introduces the access TV show, with a new telephone number - 09800 444444, National rates apply, so make it a good point (T) (5498). 6,30

Channel 4 News; Weather. Presented by Jon Snow and including all Saturday's sporting news (T)

7,55 7.25 INDIGE The Spying Game. A look at exvesdropping devices used during the Cold War. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (381030). of this absorbing history of wartime Blebbley Park – the location for Ultra, the top secret code-breaking operation. Tonights programme concentrates on the mathematical genius Alan Turing, and Bisichley's desperate race to crack the German naval codes before U-boats destroyed all the shipping in the Atlantic (T) (859127).

7.45 6 News and Sport (S) (T) (5673479)

8.55 IIII Tora! Tora! Tora! (Richard Fleischer, Kinji Fukasaku and Toshio Masuda 1970 US). History as a big-budget disaster movie in this realistic recreation of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor — seen from both Japanese and American perspectives. Martin Balsam,

900 Nightmare Co. 1996 US). Do they mean C

n: **Ground Zero** (Jonathan crime-fighter action starring the Severance as the masked

10.50 IIIM Black Scorpion: Ground Zero (Jonathan Winfrey 1996 US). Camply crime-fighter exiton starring the wonderfully named Joan Severance as the masked avenger of the title (S) (68447030).
12.30 IIIM The Front (Martin Ritt 1978 US). Curiously under-developed sains on the McCarthy era with Woody Allen as the restaurant cashier who is used as a front for blacklisted writers. Zero Mostel co-stars (9636986). 2,30 **ITIM** When the Daitons Rade (George Marshali 1940 US). Rendolph Scott leads the outlaw siblings in this lively old western (25378035). To 3.50am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT



DOCUMENTARY

THE SPYING GAME (725pm Ca, that Q supplied to 007 in the James 1900s can be seen, in the light of thi have been only a slight exaggeratio programme, "The Walls Have Ears War cavesdropping – a relatively strained the invention of the transistor bulky wiring. Gone are the days who Americans had to dig a tunnel under the days who appears to the days who appears the days who appears to the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days who appears the days appears C4, right All those gadgets thes bond movies of the flis enjoyable series, to utlon of the truth. Tonight's ars", is a history of Cold y straightforward pastime stor negated the need for when the British and



FILM OF THE DAY

2.50 4 Later: Pop-Up Video (7372986), 3.15 NYPD Blue (R) (S) (T) (4993832), 4.10 Hill Street Blues (R) (9420275), 5.05 Pearl (1262948), To 5.35am.

Argentinian entry in C4's Exploitic to do with robot-like monsters abothern into sex machines (137764).

profitce season. Something · rs abducting humans to turn

virtuoso, widescreen revenge thriller has Lee Marvin as "Walker" (and Marvin's walk in Point Blank is one of its highlights), a crook double-crossed by his wife and her lover; and left for dead in the disused Alcatraz. Marvin shoots his way to the heart of his enemy and discovers that the Mob's activities are now indistinguishable from legitimate corporate business, with no room for men of Walker's elemental nature. **POINT BLANK** (9pm BBC2, right) Every bit as defining of 1960s cinema as Antonioni's *Blow Up*, John Boorman's brutal, virtuoso, widescreen revenge thriller has Lee Marvin as



ಾ



8.05 Xenar Warrior Princess. Cupid's son steals one of his father's crossbows in an episode entitled "Comedy of Eros" (S) (3099905). 6.00 Dappledown Farm (R) (2754504). 6.30 Havakazoo (R) (7173011). 7.00 5 News and Sport (S) (9438672). 7.30 Milkshakef (S) (9209455). 7.35 Wimzle's House (R) (9189585). 8.30 Lassie (R) (S) (1508276). 8.30 Wishbone (R) (S) (1508547). 9.00 Land of the Lost (R) (1522127). 9.30 Kablami (R) (S) (834276). 10.00 Loggerhaads (R) (7164363). 10.30 The Wonder Years (151011). 11.00 The Pepsi Chart (R) (S) (T) (4010834). 11.30 Footy Shorts (84889276). 11.45 Beverly Hills, 90210 (R) (S) (T) (3247189). 12.40 Singled Out (R) (S) (15204856). 1.05 Bang Liberty (R) (S) (18663301). 1.30 RAD (51974027). 1.45 Roobarb (R) (30172295). 1.50 5 News (S) (T) (30153160). 2.00 Blast (S) (6788363). 6.00 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys. More of this hotch-potch of classical legends as the half-man, half-bodybuilder finds himself on the island of Atlantis prior to its destruction and, with the clairvoyant Cassandra, tries to warn its inhabitants of their impending doom (S) (6213301). 3.30 Sunset Beach Omnibus. The week's insanity in full.

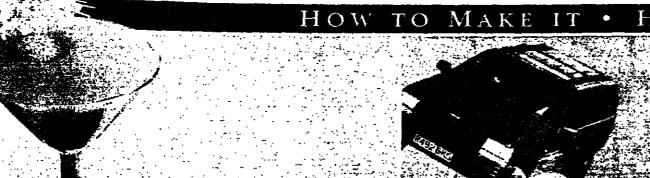
Maria hires a detective to look into her past. Will; a script

like this, you can see her point (R) (S) (T) (49643059). 2.30 Sportsweek on 5. Gall McKenna with Argentinian soccer and American ice-hockey (5) (4997/27). Night Fever. Sugps and his C-list karacke guests are entertained by Limmie and the Family Cookin', Linda Lewis and Alvin Stardust (S) (3558112). THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent 30 January 1999 Z)

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YOUR MONEY





Do the PEP quickstep

They are being replaced in weeks, but personal equity plans can still make sense. By Tony Lyons

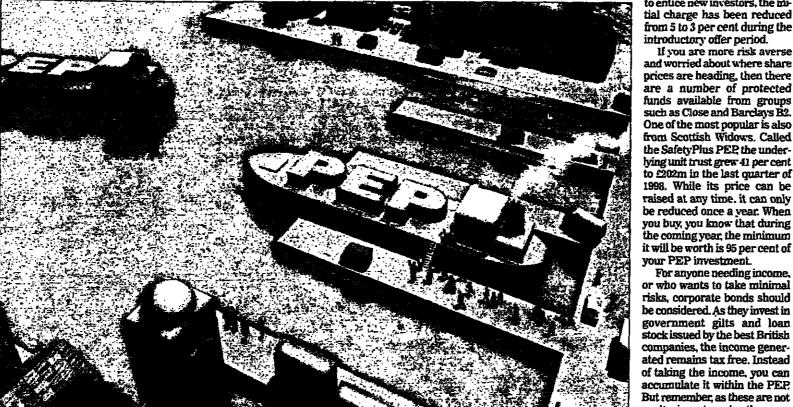
just two months left in which to take out a personal equity plan. Time is running out beore they are replaced in April y individual savings accounts. But in view of the volatility of the stockmarket, if you haven't already invested in a PEP in the current financial year, should you do so now?

Certainly, if you are a taxpayer, especially if you pay higher rate tax, the answer is yes. Any financial adviser will tell you that PEPs are for longterm investors, those prepared to wait five years or longer before cashing in. Over almost all five-year periods since the end of the First World War, equities have outperformed all other hornes for investment. The abil-🗫 o shelter £6.000 in a general rEP and £3,000 in a single-company PEP free of capital gains tax, and to receive back half the income taken in tax after 5 April. is very worthwhile.

It used to be that all PEPs were free of income tax, but the rule change in the last budget will halve the advanced corporation tax - the tax charged on company profits - that can be reclaimed to 10 per cent for five years. After this year, PEP managers will not be able to reclaim any of this income for you.

While this may make PEPs marginally less attractive, it many were saying that the UK still makes them an ideal home for long-term investment.

However, even taking a longterm view, should you be investing in equities with many alysts expecting share prices ciall? "Don't worry too much about timing," says Ann Davis of Fidelity. "Obviously it is bet-pared for a high risk, then you ter to buy when prices are low.



Don't miss the boat; there are only three months before PEPs are replaced by individual savings accounts

fessionals, the fund managers." "Never try to second-guess the market," advises Roddy

Kohn, of Kohn Cougar, independent financial advisers. "Just a couple of years ago, market was too high when the FTSE 100 was standing around the 3,400 level. We all know what happened since then."

At the moment, the shortterm risks are higher than usual. So decide what type of investor you are. If you are preshould not delay your purchase

but leave the timing to the pro- of PEPs in the hope that prices will drift lower. You might as well plunge into equities now.

Already many of the leading groups are making tempting offers. M&G, for example, will give you as much as £200, while other groups, such as Mercury, will cut their initial charges by 2 per cent.

The Independent is offering readers a free "Guide to PEPs", sponsored by Scottish Widows Fund Management, with advice on the types of PEPs available, charges, and a list of leading PEP managers and numbers. Call 0345 678910 to get your free copy.

It is not the time to be euro. To capitalise on this, Scotsplashing out on emerging tish Widows has just launched market investments, even if a new Euroland Trust that can they may show strong recovery be "Pepped". This will concenlater on. It is better to conced- trate on the 11 members of the trate on the UK and Europe. EU's monetary union "which The latter is one of the few sectors favoured by most advisers, getting a boost as it will from the recent introduction of the

has a population greater than the USA, but [whose] stockmarkets are undercapitalised by comparison," says Jamie MacLeod, of Scottish Widows Fund Management. The group believes that equity investment will increase in appeal and that continental pension funds, with a much larger single, home market, will be investing more in shares than they used to. And

tial charge has been reduced

from 5 to 3 per cent during the

and worried about where share

funds available from groups

such as Close and Barclays B2.

One of the most popular is also

from Scottish Widows. Called

the Safety Plus PEP, the under-

lying unit trust grew 41 per cent

to £202m in the last quarter of

1998. While its price can be

be reduced once a year. When

the coming year, the minimum

For anyone needing income.

or who wants to take minimal

risks, corporate bonds should

companies, the income gener-

equity investments, they are

likely to show lower growth

you invest your PEP money before 5 April, you can always

change the investment vehicle

later on. While no new money

will be allowed into PEPs after

that date, transfers will still be

allowed. This means that you

can invest in a low-risk PEP

now; if markets settle or you

feel less nervous about them,

change the underlying fund

later on. Most transfers within

the same management group

are usually done free of charge

or for minimal costs, although

these may be higher if moving

Don't forget that so long as

rates over the long term.

your PEP investment.

If you are more risk averse

introductory offer period.



BARGAIN HUNTER

Property of the week Three for one

YOU GET two for the price of one with this property in Great Moulton, 12 miles from Diss, in Norfolk, an easy drive from the coast and the Broads. Barn Meadow and Carpenter's Cottage share six acres of formal and informal gardens, including an orchard and arboretum In fact, it's almost three for the price of one, as Carpenter's was originally two cottages under a thatched roof (now pantiled). Both properties have been recently restored and extended. Offers around £225,000 to Strutt & Parker (01603 617431). ROSALIND RUSSELL

Car of the week Grand offer

USED CAR sales are still going strong and some of the UK's biggest car supermarkets have mass-market cars that are now very cheap. Concept Car Supermarkets have branches in Cannock, Chertsey, Southampton, Manchester and Glasgow (0800 9807127). They are offering up to £1,000 off certain models. A selection of N-registered Ford Mondeo 1.8 LX automatics with a sticker price of £4,995 have now been reduced to a much more reasonable £3,995. Just as important, there are some attractive finance terms.

JAMES RUPPERT

Saturday 30 January 1999

Deal of the week Performance for a price

"Estimated gross distribution gross income reinvested and redemption yield 7.8% per annum as at 11.12.98. Estimated yields will vary and up to date figures are available on request at the number below." "The dealing spread was 0.8% as at 11.12.98. The MSG High Yield Corporate Band Fund is managed by Mic Securities Limited (regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and 10.0%). Mic G on to after investment advice or make any commendations about investments. We only promote the packaged products and services of the MSG marketing group. The tax regime of FPs and ISAs may though, and the value of the tax benefits will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invested, issued by Mic Financial Services Limited (regulated by the Personal Investment Authority). Mic House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1Fs.

The Good Buy PEP from M&G

PERPETUAL, ONE of the country's most respected fund managers, has launched its first pension contract. Its charges are on the high side. For every £100 put in, £5 comes off in an initial charge. The contract also charges £24 a year in admin fees and up to 1.5 per cent a year in fund management charges. It also offers the chance to take a payment holiday without penalty. If Perpetual can repeat the glittering returns of the past, and savers keep up the contract for decades, not years, the charges fade into insignificance. Available through independent financial advisers.

ANDREW VERITY

Pension giants fall out over quote manipulation claims

Are you being misled over your pension? Sun Life fears you might be. By Paul Slade

PERSONAL PENSION giants like Standard Life are maniputheir quotes to produce craracts which look good on paper but give many customers a poor deal.

That's the charge from Axa Sun Life, which accuses rivals of artificially boosting the transfer values they offer. These show the amount you would get if you stopped your premiums early and took the money in your pension to another company. But Axa Sun Life research shows that only about 15 per cent of people who stop their premiums early take this route. The other 85 per cent leave the fund where it is, turning their pension into what insurers call a paid-up policy (PUP).

Concentrating on transfer values alone therefore lets some companies sell pensions by pointing to high transfer values, knowing very few customers will ever take them up in practice. Companies named by Axa Sun Life as offenders inchude Standard Life, Scottish micable, Clerical Medical and wich Union

AXA Sun Life business de-Flopment manager (pensions) Seve Burgess says: "Some companies are cynically manipulating their figures so they look good on a standard quote." **But Standard Life pensions** marketing manager Andrew Black denies the charge. He says: "In general terms, contracts offering good transfer values also offer good PUP mat-

urity values. They're not identical, but there's a strong link." The effect of switching from transfer values to PUP maturity values can be dramatic, however. If you take the example of a 25-year pension, with premiums of £200 a month, and look at which one produces the best transfer value after one year, Clerical Medical tops a list of 12 leading companies. Look

PENSION VALUES Clerical Medical Scottish Mutual Norwich Union Friends Providen Scottish Amicable Scottish Equitable Standard Life Royal & Sun Allance Scottish Widows Legal & General

instead at which company produces the best PUP maturity value, and Clerical Medical drops to the very bottom of the table (see left). Nigel Chambers, deputy

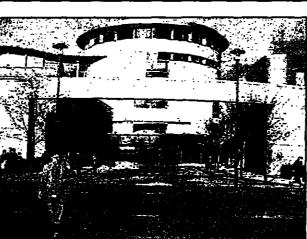
> Johnstone Douglas, warns that customers can have either high early transfer values or high maturity values, but not both. He says: "Insurers can collect their charges early and have as Sun Life has - a higher maturity value. Or they do as Standard Life does and take a

level charge all the way through,

managing director at IFAs

which gives you lower maturity values. You can't do both." Nearly 30 per cent of people with a regular premium personal pension stop their payments in the first four years. Whichever option you choose when stopping, you cannot take the pension's benefits until it

matures at retirement age. The regulators demand that pension companies quote both transfer value payouts and full maturity values. These appear on the key features documents which all customers receive. PUP maturity values can be included, but there is no obligation. AXA Sun Life plans to lobby for PUP maturity values also to



The Sun Life Centre in Bristol - centre of a pensions storm

says: "The only figures shown on the quote are the transfer value and the full maturity value. What they don't show are the PUP maturity values."

Once again, Black does not agree. He claims customers would simply be confused if faced with three different figures: "Early transfer values and full maturity values illustrate the bulk of the story. They key messages. It's a question of balance, and of choosing the right amount of information."

throughout the pension's term. PUP maturity values show what happens if you stop after

erament's plans to bring in new low-cost stakeholder pensions could lead to high early transfer values backfiring on companies offering them. AXA Sun Life has its own axe to grind bring out what I think are the in this particular row. The company's Lifestyle range of personal pensions, launched on 14 January, is built round providing high PUP maturity values.

The M&G High Yield Corporate Bond PEP Fund Choose the M&G High Yield Corporate Bond PEP for your last-ever PEP and you'll be going out on a high. The current tax free yield is an impressive 7.8%, and there's TAX FREE P.A.* even some potential for capital growth. What's more, there's no initial charge** and no withdrawal fee after 5 years. "M&6 is one of Investing in bonds issued by medium sized and fastthe UK's most growing companies, and drawing on the skills of our award respected bond winning fixed interest investment team, this exciting groups" PEP Fund offers a higher yield than traditional corporate a given number of years. BLOOMBERG MONEY, OCTOBER 1998 bond funds, but lower risk than stockmarket investments. Chambers thinks the Gov-And there's another valuable benefit. Invest £1,000 or more in unit trusts through the M&G PEP before 5th April this year, and you will qualify for a voucher worth up to £200 to use when you invest in a new M&G ISA in the 1999/2000 tax year. Make sure your PEP investments go out on a high call now for details and application forms. 0800 210 224 FREE ISA VOUCHER **WORTH UP TO £200** WHEN YOU THVEST UP TO £6,000 UH THE MAG HIGH YIELD CORPORATE BOND PEP

Financial makeover

Shopping Motoring

be made compulsory. Burgess

8-9

Full maturity values assume

Property Hot spot: Edinburgh

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A problem shared.

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAMES: EDMUND AND JUDITH HUGHES AGES: 31 AND 34 OCCUPATIONS: RESEARCH ENGINEER AND SENIOR NURSE

drawnd and Judith live in Hampshire and married last year. They are both employed, Edmund as a university research engineer and Judith as a senior nurse. Having got the savings for the wedding and new home out of the way, they now feel that they need to organise their personal fmances.

They are particularly concerned about pension planning. Both of them are members of their employers' schemes: Judith has been in the National Health Service Pension Scheme since 1986 and Edmund joined the Universities Superannuation Scheme in December 1997. Their main worry is over Edmund's pension, as his current scheme is the only provision he has made.

The couple have some savings accounts scattered about, and each hasa Tessa. They also have some shares; Judith has Halifax windfall shares, and Edmund holds some "blue chips". In addition to this, Judith has been paying into a low-cost endowment plan since 1989. They have a repayment mortgage, which is fixed for four years, and have taken out a joint level term life assurance to cover the loan. They save £400 per month to fund home improvements and holidays, and would like to continue

The adviser

Fiona Price of Fiona Price & Partners, 33 Great Queen Street, Covent Garden, London WC2B 5AA. Telephone 0171-430 0366.

The advice

For a newly married couple, Edmund and Judith's finances are in surprisingly good order. However, here are a few areas which need to be addressed.

As always, the first thing to look at is short-term savings. They need to build on the amount they currently have and should aim for at least three months' normal expenditure to cover any emergencies. Their savings are spread over three accounts and the rates on the First Direct high interest savings and Nationwide monthly savings account are not very competitive.

They should transfer the money



Feeling the squeeze: Edmund and Judith Hughes

paying 5.9 per cent gross (or they could consider Prudential's egg savings account, with a gross interest rate of 7.25 per cent, currently the on surrender. best rate available, provided they are happy to put up with egg's adminis-

tration problems). As for the Tessas. Edmund's is with the Bradford & Bingley and I think that he should leave it there. Judith might want to consider moving her Halifax Tessa to get a better rate, as long as there are no penal-

in these accounts to the Nationwide it has been going for nine years. It priority. Both of their employers Invest Direct account, which is suits her cautious attitude to risk and provide good levels of sickness

it would be inadvisable to surrender it, as it won't have made much, if any, profit. There could also be penalties

Edmund should keep his shares, and I see little point in putting them into a PEP It is a small shareholding and unlikely to give rise to a capital gains tax problem. And the income from PEPs will no longer be as tax-efficient, due to the reduction in tax credits on dividends. The cost of the PEP may outweigh the advantages here.

Investments: I would advise Judith Protection: Further, Edmund and to keep her low-cost endowment as Judith see protection as a low Russell Sachs

benefit, so there is very little need for permanent health insurance (PHI) - especially for Judith. Their employers' schemes also have inbuilt death benefits which, together with the term assurance covering their mortgage, are more than adequate for their needs.

I would, however, suggest that they take out a critical illness plan. as extra protection for their home loan. This type of insurance pays out a lump sum in the event of contracting certain serious illnesses, and would give them some peace of mind if the unthinkable were to happen. A suitable plan, covering both lives for a sum assured of £100.000, costs £35 to £40 a month.

Millions lost to the tax moguls

TAXPAYERS STRUGGLING with tomorrow's deadline for tax payments might be comforted to know that someone, somewhere in the financial world, is standing up for the little guy. That champion of consumer rights, the Personal Investment Authority, has been flexing its muscles.

Pensions: Edmund and Judith have

said that their main concern is pen-

sions. Edmund works on a contract

basis and is less certain than Judith

of his future career path. His aim is

to retire at 65 on the maximum

pension. This would mean that if he

stayed with the Universities Super-

annuation Scheme (USS) he would

have a shortfall in his target pension,

equivalent to £4,210 a year in today's

terms. He can make up this short-

fall by: buying "added years" with-

in the scheme, making additional

voluntary contributions to his

employer's AVC scheme, or taking

Each one has its pros and cons.

However, on balance an AVC scheme

would probably be preferable to

added years. Though a close run

thing, on balance an AVC would suit

Edmund's attitude to investment

better in a favourable climate. The

analysis I carried out showed that

Edmund would have to pay £77 per

month, before tax relief, to achieve

Judith has been in the NHS Pen-

sions Scheme since 1986. She origi-

nally joined the scheme in 1983, but

was offered the opportunity by her

employer to opt out after three

years' service and take a return of

contributions, which she decided to

do. Though she later opted back in,

She is anxious to make up the loss.

Added to this, she would like to re-

tire at the age of 55. Fortunately, as

she was a member of her scheme be-

fore 1995, this is her scheme retire-

ment age. It means that if she

continues in service until the age of

55 she will have 34 years' service,

and, because it is also her "normal

retirement age", she can fund for the

maximum pension (which is based

on 40 years' service). Judith, like

Edmund, has the same top up

choices. After completing an analy-

sis. I suggest that Judith buy added

years. This will provide her with an

compatible with her very cautious

should be able to fund the addition-

al cost of her pension using her spare

cash. But she should write to the

NHS Pensions Agency, giving her

national insurance number to get a

breakdown of the cost.

attitude to risk.

inflation-proofed pension and is

My calculations show that Judith

it is a decision she now regrets.

out a free standing AVC scheme.

This week it was Liverpool Victoria, fined a record £900,000 for serious and widespread failures to comply with the rules. Two weeks ago, another

regulator, Imro, fined Lloyds TSB £425,000 for persistent poor management of its unit trusts. A large part of the problem was down to its computer system. Right enough. But there are some quarters of the

financial world which lurk

out of reach of the regulatory machine. In this customer's hell, poor administration is widespread. Customers are frequently overcharged. They are never paid interest when they're owed money. And they're often forced into overdraft. What's more, it's all done with impunity. The culprits' actions affect our finances more intimately than any unit trust company. And yet they are never fined.

In fact, they fine us. Which brings us back to the Inland Revenue. The sins of Lloyds TSB have been repeated, almost to the letter, by the Revenue. Overcharging, to the tune of hundreds of millions of pounds, goes unnoticed and uncorrected every year No interest is paid when they have incorrectly estimated your tax liability and take months to refund it, though officials will slap a surcharge plus interest on those of us who underestimate.

This week it emerged that the Revenue's bad admin had caused over 800,000 incorrect tax returns to be sent out. The returns were sent out as part of the

ANDREW VERITY

Overcharging by the Revenue is unnoticedand goes uncorrected every year

Revenue's "guarantee", a promise to calculate the tax of those who got their forms in by September 31. The calculations were supposed to be with taxpayers before the end of January.

Unfortunately, when they arrived, they appeared to charge customers double the amount they owed. An apology letter followed, but customers had to work out. according to an obscure formula, how much they really owed. So much for the guarantee.

Last year, the Inland Revenue's tax statements were even worse - they confused credits with debits and vice versa. Thousands owed refunds by the Revenue were fined for nonpayment. Red faces in Somerset House all round, and public apologies - but no one was punished.

It is not as if this is confined to the Revenue. MPs this week slammed the dodgy technology installed at the DSS to administer national insurance. NIERS2. the £100m computer system installed by Andersen Consulting, had failed on no less than 1,919 counts. Over 17 million contributions had not been processed. Payments to private pension schemes had been delayed for months - costing scheme members some £38m.

Compared to the private sector, the public part of the financial world runs wild. But a simple reform would do the trick: interest and surcharges for delays, and a £100 fine for each cock up.



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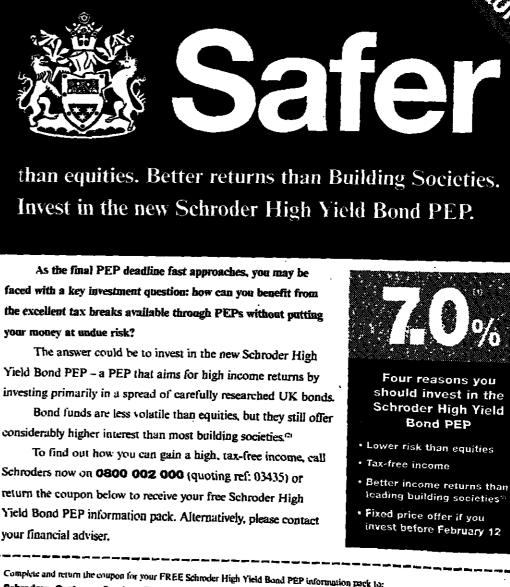
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> ccording to Maurice Saatchi, the guru of advertising, good adverts are like road signs. Road signs name a place, say how far away it is and point people in a specified direction. Likewise, good adverts, he points out, supply minimal information and people By this definition, the recent adverts for Nasdag, the new US stock market, may be good: they certainet discure ly supply a name and minimal information. They present Nasdan as

> > such as Microsoft. However, as with any presentation supplying minimal information, they leave many questions unanswered, and many viewers mystified.

What is Nasdaq? How do you invest in it? Is doing so a good idea? Answers to these questions may not make for exciting ad breaks during Who Wants to be a Millionaire?, but if you are attracted by Nasdaq's adverts and want solid investment performance, you should look for answers to these questions, rather than the ones read out by Chris Tarrant

Named after America's NASDS the National Association of Securities Dealers, which founded it in 1971 - Nasdaq is one of the most important stock exchanges in the world. It lists shares in over 5,500 companies - more than any other stock market.

"It's a stock exchange that's got a huge mixture of companies in it, ranging from mega technology stocks such as Intel, Microsoft and Cisco, to very small American companies," says Richard Royds, who is the managing director of Mercury stockmarkets. unit trusts

It also has some interesting characteristics. The Nasdag market is not even in place. Trading takes place electronically between dealers all over the world, although it is fa- have been focused on by the advercilitated by a mainframe computer tisements, but there's no guarantee

Yet what really makes Nasdaq stand out are its technology companies - including those mentioned above - among which have been some of the most profitable busi- clients investing overseas - the The professionals know best AP

nesses in the history of the world. Mr Royds says: "It is not totally technological in any way, but it's got a tremendously high weighting of tech stocks." With the boom in technology it is easy to see why city investment specialists can get

excited by Nasdag. However, not all of its companies are such glittering success stories. Greg Kerr, a fund manager on the US desk at M and G, says: "Certainly, at the low end of the market, you will get a lot of low-quality companies." While the financial rewards from investing in Nasdaq can be very

high, so can the losses. Still, with the prospect of dynamic hi tech companies that may boom

company will not usually offer advice to clients on foreign shares.

Amanda Davidson, of the financial advisers Holden Meehan, says: "Private investors should not be encouraged to do this. They should look for a US fund - either a unit trust or an investment trust - and

do it that way." The pooled investments reduce risk by spreading investors' money across many companies, and can benefit from the expertise of a fund manager picking shares, However, although experts agree that private investors should, except in special circumstances, choose a collective investment, there is debate about the best type of fund.

'There have been some fairly spectacular share price rises, but there's no guarantee that you are going to pick the next Microsoft'

into global corporate giants, you may want a slice of the action, even if it only forms one part of your investment portfolio.

It is possible to invest directly in Nasdaq by buying shares in its companies via a stockbroker. However, for the vast majority of private investors this is a bad idea. "If you are going to invest directly

in overseas equities, you have got to bear in mind that dealing charges tend to be higher because of increased costs," says Richard Hunter, who is the head of dealing services at Nat West Stockbrokers. He says that investors will need

a minimum of £100,000 before they can even start thinking about purchasing shares directly in foreign There is also the problem of

knowing which companies to invest in, "There have been some fairly spectacular Nasdaq share price rises, and those are the ones that pick the next Microsoft," he adds.

And many stockbrokers, such as Redmayne Bentley, limit themselves to an execution-only service for

There is no tracker fund, one that passively tracks an index of shares. in the UK for Nasdaq, which leaves investors with a choice between a technology fund and an American fund. Neither will invest solely in Nasdaq, yet both are almost certain

A technology fund will invest specifically in the kind of hi-tech companies that have come to characterise Nasdaq. So if it is technology that attracts you, these funds

to include Nasdaq shares in their



the higher risk. Hopefully that's going to pay off, but that is not always Mr Kerr warns: "Technology has had a spectacularly strong quarter, but that situation may not be going

to last that long." Yet although the risks may be higher, some experts are still enthusiastic about technology stocks. Mr Royds remarks: "I think that in the technology marketplace, with the speed of change in technology, the opportunities for elever investors are tremendous."

Whatever type of funds you are interested in, it is worth bearing in mind general guidelines for choosing collective investments.

Ms Davidson says: "Have a look and see what its past performance was like; see if the firm it is run by is generally doing well; bear in mind that, if a company only has one good fund, then if its manager leaves that will leave you exposed.

"And you can look at what a fund actually invests in if you want to go into that amount of detail." She advises any investor to consult an independent financial adviser if they have the money to start looking to invest abroad.

Nasdaq is not simply a thoroughbred stud farm for the Microsofts and Intels of the future. Tomorrow's front-runners may be in there somewhere, but finding them is a difficult task that is best left to And "you shouldn't try and gain

exposure to Nasdaq for its own be great opportunities waiting to be exploited - but, like Chris Tarrant's television quiz, Nasdaq is not a guaranteed fast track to becoming



With the boom in technology, it's easy to see why Wall Street is so excited by Nasdaq

Today self-assessment, tomorrow the virtual world.

self-assessment tax return and got it off to the Inland Revenue by now. If you haven't, then oops! Friday was the last working day of the month, though you might get away with making sure the return is on the taxman's doormat first thing on Monday. If you are one of the large number of people who indulge in this kind of brinkmanship, what can I say? It is your £100 that the Revenue will take away as a fine for late

delivery of the return. For future reference, I direct your attention to the selfassessment website, which explains the dates on the tax

calendar, the records you need to keep and offers answers to common queries. There is also the obligatory screensaver. I am happy to say I do not know anybody who is sad enough to download a screensaver from the Inland Revenue.

It is easy to be confused about what the taxmen want from you. They get confused too. It is also easy to get confused about issues concerning the Internet. Take. for example, last week's launch by Barclays Stockbrokers of an expanded pilot of its trading service. This was translated by one newspaper (which shall remain nameless - oh alright, it was the Mail on Sunday) into

the news that Barclays Bank was planning to launch a free Internet access service something which was news to both Barclays Stockbrokers and Barclays Bank themselves!

Finding your way round the Net also appears to be causing not a little confusion to some readers. One, trying to find Interactive Investor, one of the main personal finance sites. was bemused to find himself looking at Innovative Interfaces, an American specialist in website software for libraries. Why is there this confusion? It is a simple

matter of making sure you



INTERNET INVESTOR Robin Amlôt

know your dot-coms from your dot-co-dot-uks.

On the subject of Interactive Investor, the site has launched a PEP Centre to help the bemused among us find their way round this last-ever PEP-buying season. The first thing you will see on the PEP Centre is a countdown of the number of days remaining to the end of the tax year - 65, as of today.

The PEP Centre is intended to be the first of a series of focused topic sites within the overall Interactive Investor website, which are planned to be launched over the next few months. Similar sites covering other subjects such as

mortgages, healthcare products, personal pensions and banks are promised in the near future.

It offers a range of performance data, news and features. The statistics are provided by Standard & Poor's Micropal, one of the industry's leading number-crunchers. You may view shortlists of PEP funds by performance, sector and geographical focus and review the top 10 performing funds over

one, three, five and 10 years. The site also includes links to a list of PEP providers, offering a brochure request service, and news sourced from the financial services' weekly Money Marketing, as well as Interactive

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Investor's own in-house news. However, just a word to the wise; while this may be your "last chance" to buy a PEP, that does not make it necessarily the right investment choice for you. With only a couple of months left to run, there is not a lot of point in anyone taking out a monthly PEP saving scheme. Purchasing a PEP right now will really only make sense if you can devote a lump sum to the investment.

Self-assessment: www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/sa/; Interactive Investor: www.iii.co.uk; Robin can be reached at: robinamlot@aol.com

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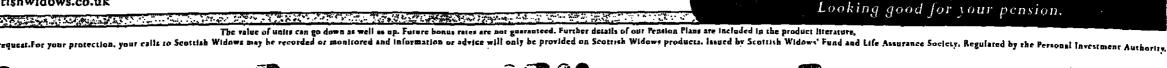
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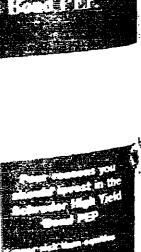
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ASK ANY stockbroker where to put your money and you will be told that equities are the best investment. They may go up and down according to the vagaries of the market, but over any fiveyear period they will have outperformed alternatives such as cash or bonds. Until now. According to statistics to be released, **British Government** Securities - UK bonds to the cognoscenti - have outperformed ordinary

shares this decade. The source of this revelation is the Equity/Gilt Study published yearly by Barclays. It traces the performance of the stock market, gilts and building society deposits all the way to 1918. The survey that brings us up to the end of 1998 is expected to show that British Government stocks put on a late spurt last year, and edged their way to the top of the table for the returns

This is really quite a remarkable achievement. Yet I am sure it is true. Gilts have performed remarkably well recently. Confounding expectations, yields on long-dated British Government stocks are now below those achievable in America or Germany. US 30-year bonds return 5.1

per cent, German 4.5 per

cent, and here in the UK

achieved during the 1990s.

iust 4.2 per cent. Why has it happened? It is not just that inflation has fallen and stayed down - that has happened elsewhere too. In the UK there has been unprecedented demand for gilts by pension funds. This Government, too, has been chary of increasing borrowing, so over recent years demand has outstripped supply. Can it continue? It is hard to see that it will, but then who would have predicted rields so low when we

entered the 1990s. This may have been good news for some investors, but it does have severe implications elsewhere. It is an interesting twist to realise that the latest potential scandal to hit the financial



BRIAN **TORA**

Government stocks put on a spurt last year, and edged

their way to the top of the returns' table services industry ~

guaranteed annuity rates on certain personal pension products - would not have occurred had gilts not risen so much recently. Annuity rates depend upon the returns available in the Government securities market. With these now so low, promises made years ago to deliver a particular income at retirement can

no longer be met other

than by diverting

additional funds to make up the shortfall. The message must be that most of the fun in this market has already taken place, but you need to plan early and fund well to enjoy retirement. Living off capital is all very well but markets fluctuate and you may need income at a

want to sell. Meantime, bargains are there to be had. Some fund managers recognise this, launching bond funds offering spectacular yields. Be careful, though. High yields mean higher risk, although in many cases the yield premium seems out of all proportion to the attendant risk.

time when you do not

Buy them if you will for an income that will surely be greater than that which you can expect from gilts or building society deposits - however, treat any capital gains as an unexpected bonus.

Brian Tora is head of the Asset Management Division of Greig Middleton & Co

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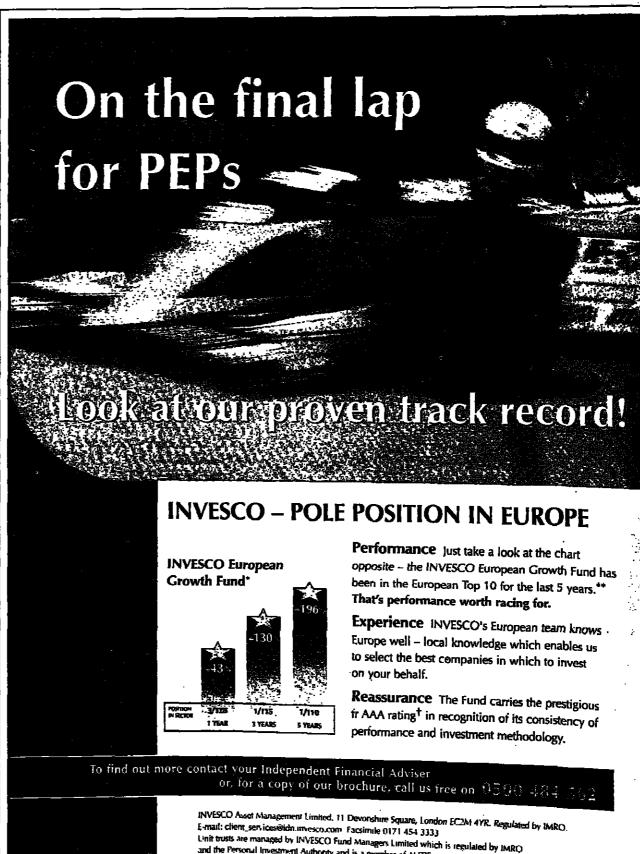
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Lenders have to face reality and start offering home loans at a decent cost to suit customers

Security is what we want



JONATHAN **DAVIS**

It is not the cost of a house, but the cost of the finance that should top the agenda

t may be just a straw in the wind, but with any luck this week's hint from Northern Rock that it is considering changing the way it funds its mortgage lending will prove in be an important (and overdue) watershed in the cost of owning a home in this country.

The building society (soon to coni to a bank) says that it is lookat ways to fund its lending to home owners by issuing securities to investors, rather than relying on the traditional building society source, which is the deposit accounts of its savers. The technique of funding loans with securities backed by a lender's mortgage book is widespread in the United States, but has been slow to reach this country, despite many predictions that it was on the way.

The argument for switching to mortgage-backed securities as a source of finance is that it should enable lenders such as Northern Rock to borrow money for home loans m we cheaply than they can raise m .ay at the moment. This in turn will allow them to compete more effectively, either by taking market share from other lenders with more expensive sources of finance, or by increasing their profit margins on home loans.

The immediate trigger for Northern Rock's move, apart from its impending demutualisation, seems to be the entry of new competitors in the market for retail savings. Companies such the Prudential with its

EL ROPE

offering higher rates on savings accounts than the banks or building societies reckon they can afford.

If this turns out to be the start of a trend, which is not unlikely, it can only be good news for borrowers. The sad truth is that, while we in Britain spend an inordinate amount of time fretting over which type of mortgage to have, and what is happening to house prices, we tend to lose sight of the fact that the real problem we face in a low inflation environment is how expensive and inflexible our mortgage finance is.

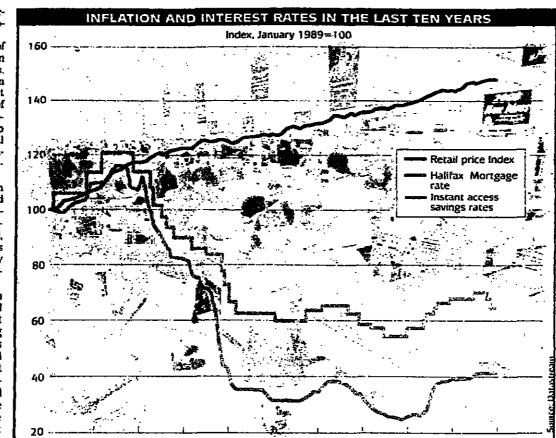
Compared to other countries in Europe, which have long enjoyed low-cost, long-term, fixed-rate mortgages, and the US, where securitisation of home loans is widespread, the price we pay for our home loans remains, in general, extravagantly high, and the system by which we obtain them excessively inflexible.

When you consider that inflation is now firmly entrenched at around 2 per cent per annum, the fact that many home owners are still paying 8 per cent or so for their mortgages is little short of extraordinary. A real (inflation-adjusted) rate of interest of 6 per cent is very high for longterm lending which is fully secured on property values (and that's before the fact that many lenders require you to pay the cost of insuring that such security might not be enough!).

In fact, the business of mortgage lending in this country has been so profitable for most of the last 15 years, that it is no surprise that new lenders keep falling over themselves to try and get into the market. It is true that increased competition is belatedly having some impact on the cost of home loans, as anyone who has enjoyed a cashback or cut price mortgage offer in the last three years will testify.

For the first time in many years canny buyers and homeowners who switch their lenders have recently had the chance to enjoy some terrific mortgage bargains. But because existing borrowers seem content to cross-subsidise the new business their lender is wooing with its cutprice offers, overall profit margins in the business still remain high.

It seems that most existing borrowers are either too lazy, or perhaps too diffident, to work out that they should be able to take advantage of these new market conditions to EGG account, and Standard Life, are strike a better deal for themselves. But they still seem reluctant to take



mortgage is discovering that they are paying a high premium for the insurance of knowing their repayment obligations in advance. Needless to say, the lenders are doing all they can to lock in those who take advantage of new cheap

deals with hefty redemption penal-

Anyone who opted for a fixed rate full advantage of the opportunity. It is not the cost of a house, but the cost of the finance, which should top consumers' agendas.

Given the other strange things that have gone on in the mortgage market over the years (including the remarkable resilience of the commission-led endowment mortgage),

The price of home loans remains extravagantly high and the system excessively inflexible

ties and similar loyalty devices. In the days when house prices were soaring, and the government dispensed hefty tax breaks for house purchase, the need to worry about the cost of a mortgage was limited. But now that world has gone, and the scope for consumers to exercise their muscle is much increased.

it is small wonder perhaps that the banks and building societies have struggled so hard to avoid regulation of the mortgage market. It must be open to doubt whether the new voluntary mortgage code will head off some degree of regulation by government (an outcome to be avoided if at all possible).

My hope, as I said the other

Ways to raise your interest

Make your money work harder for you. By Iain Morse

HEARD THE one about a man who kept £10,000 in his current account? No? You haven't missed much in the way of interest. After deducting tax, charges and inflation, the real value of cash in most current accounts is falling.

If you doubt this, then figure it out for yourself. Put £10,000 into Abbey National's Instant Plus Account, paying monthly interest of just 1 per rent gross. After deducting 20 per cent basic rate income tax, the net annual return on this account would be £30.

The underlying rate of inflation – excluding house prices – fell to 2.5 per cent in August. Apply this over 12 months, add net interest, and the real value of cash would be around £9,830. On these figures, basic rate taxpayers need gross returns of at least 3.1 per cent just to level peg with inflation.

One way to get higher interest is by putting your cash in a "variable term account". Check on whether interest is credited to the account on a monthly,

quarterly or annual basis. As an example, take Bradford & Bingley's Bonus 120 account, which pays annual interest of 7.4 gross, and a lower 7.2 per cent if paying monthly on a deposit of £10,000. There are penalties for early withdrawal.

But Jeremy Peat, chief accountant of the Royal Bank of Scotland warns: "Interest rates could go lower, faster. than has yet been factored in by the markets." If you're relying on interest to supplement income, looking at fixed rate accounts seems a

sensible precaution. Northern Rock has some of the best deals on one-year fixed-rate bonds; £10,000 will lock into a fixed gross rate of 7.05 per cent paid monthly. Non-taxpayers investing this amount receive £58.75 a

month, low rate taxpayers £47 a month or 5.64 per cent net, and high rate payers, £35.35 a month, or 4.18 per cent net.

But caution is needed. Monthly interest bonds pay less - between 0.2 and 0.5 per cent - than quarterly or annual bonds. No early access to capital is allowed.

Bonds of this kind are available from banks and building societies. Some insurance companies offer "guaranteed income bonds"(GIB's).

The big drawback of GIB's is that they only pay "income" net of basic rate tax. This is

If you're relying on interest to boost income, looking at fixed rates is a wise precaution

not reclaimable even by non taxpayers. Investing £10,000 for one year, the best net return comes from GE Financial Assurance, paying 5.16 net monthly. Over three and four years Hambro Assured offers respective rates of 4.90 and 5.10.

Some local authorities issue fixed-rate term bonds. These are similar to fixed-rate bonds, with no early access. Over one year, Torfaen BC comes top, paying 6.25 gross on a six-monthly basis, on deposits of £1,000 or more.

You can also try "moneymarket time deposits". The current best deal comes from Anglo Irish Bankcorp, offering a fixed rate of 6.5 per cent over 12 months on deposits of £50,000 or more. Remember the effect of inflation on your capital. At 2.5

reduce the value of £10,000 to

just £8,750 over five years.

Thought for the day

week, is that consumer pressure is

finally starting to assert itself, and

will eventually do the job before

heavy handed government regula-

tors get involved. Securitising mort-

gage loans, if it now happens, would

certainly be another welcome step

down the path towards a healthy

competitive market in mortgages. It

suggests that lenders are finally

being forced to accept the new re-

ality and do all they can to cut their

Theory suggests that a big mort-

gage lender with access to securi-

tised finance could cut the margin

on mortgage lending to 1 per cent or

less. This compares with the 1.4 per

cent typically required by banks

funding their loans in the money

markets, and the 2 per cent which

lenders traditionally charge for the

privilege of helping us buy our

United States, and if it doesn't come

to this country soon, we really should

start asking ourselves why.

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Plug those tax leaks now Red faces at

Ten top tips on tax saving from the people who know how it's done. By Andy Couchman

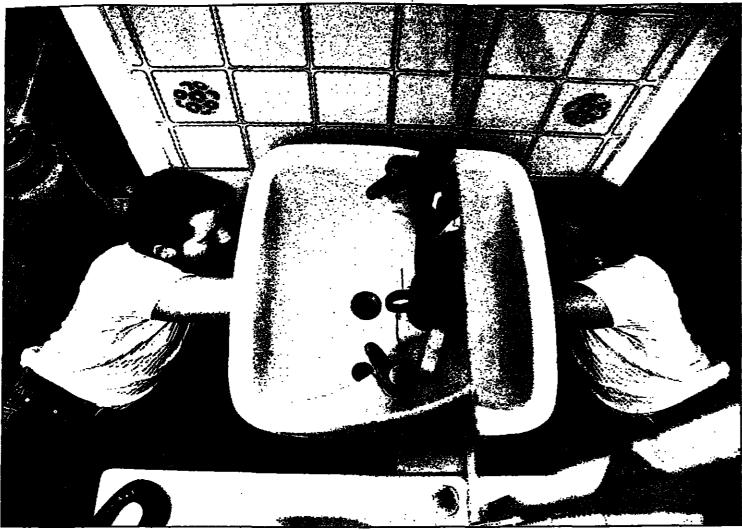
n this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Benjamin Franklin's famous comment is as true today as it was 200 years ago but, while most of us are happy to pay our taxes, few of us want to pay any more than we have to.

The essence to saving tax is, for most people, a question of concentrating on simple, well-proven ideas, rather than setting up complex tax mitigation schemes. Not everyone wants to, or can afford to, set up offshore trusts. Indeed, it is important not to get involved in tax evasion which is illegal - and even tax avoidance, using legal tax loopholes to minimise tax, is distasteful to many.

To find out how best to minimise tax, we consulted two firms of accountants and two guides to taxation. Here, then, are The Independent's top 10 tax tips:

■ A good starting point from the Allied Dunbar Tax Handbook, edited by Tony Foreman and sponsored by accountants Pannell Kerr Forster. is to take your tax affairs seriously. to read up about self-assessment. and not to be fooled by "G&T tax advice". Just because a mate down the pub claims to pay no tax does not mean that they do not, or that their activities are legal. Make sure that you keep good records. That will also make it easier for you or your accountant to sort out your tax affairs. In many families, one spouse pays less tax than the other does. So, if your spouse pays less tax than you do, consider transferring assets to them. This works especially well if one partner is a higher rate taxpayer and currently holds most or all of the family's investments. Janice Payne of London-based Kings Mill Tax Practice, says this can help avoid paying higher rate tax on investment income. The gift has to be without reservation - if your partner decides to cash the money and go on a spree they are free to do so. ■ People whose homes are big enough can receive tax-free rent up to £4.250 under the Rent a Room rules. The home needs to be your main or only residence at some time during the letting and the room must be furnished says William Hinton of chartered accountants William Hinton & Partners in Stow-

If you have a business that gen- with PEPs and with Tessas, but a



Get organised to sort out your tax affairs, and stop your money going down the drain

to spend, consider incorporating it. your business is VAT-registered, is writes tax consultant Sonia Gable in her book Planning for Capital after six months you can reclaim the Gains Tax. There are two reasons to do so; first, a limited company is If you think that you are self-emlikely to pay a lower rate of tax than you do, and second, there are CGT advantages available through companies that individuals do not have. For the self-employed, look at in-

vesting as much as you can into a getting your hands on pensions income from age 50 - lower if you are in a profession such as sport or show business, says Janice Payne.

■ Another idea from William Hinton is to take advantage of available tax breaks. Most people are familiar that if you can write off bad debts

ployed, make sure that the Revenue does too, advises the Tax Handbook. Self-employed workers can offset more expenses against tax than employees. The rules are especially complex if you work "onsite" for personal pension. You can start someone else, so you should seek professional advice.

If you have held assets for less than 10 years, consider delaying realising gains where the qualifying holding period is just short of a full number of years, says Sonia Gable. That is because the new taper relief for Capital Gains Tax, works on the asset for.

■ Here's a simple way to save at least £100 – make sure that you have submitted your self assessment tax return and paid your tax for 1997/98 by 31 January. Do not throw anything away. The

Revenue's policy is to "process now, check later". It reserves the right to open an enquiry into your 1997/98 tax return until 1 February pay your tax bill is now. 2000 - and it does not have to give a justification for doing so. How strong would your case be if you had thrown away your tax records before then?

If your tax affairs are at all complex, it will probably pay you to employ an accountant or tax adviser - Tony Buckingham

erates more profits than you want useful tip, if the recession bites and how many full years you have held but make sure that they employ properly qualified staff, and spe-cialise in the tax affairs of people like you. If you want to do it yourself, a good tax guide is a must. The Allied Dunbar Tax Handbook is one of the best established, while Taxbriefs' Planning for Capital Gains Tax is Tar Handbook advises that the a new guide to this complex tax.

But do not leave it too long to get your tax affairs in order. The time to plan and to set aside the money to

The Kings Mill Tax Practice, 9181 649 8889: William Hinton & Partners, 01451 831 130: Allied Dunber Tox Handbook', price £25.99 from booksellers: Planning for Capital Gains Tax', price £47 from Taxòriefs on

the Revenue

Some 800,000 incorrect tax demands have gone out. By Andrew Verity

AS TOMORROW'S deadline looms for getting tax returns to the tax office, a spate of horror stories is emerging about an Inland Revenue mistake that led hundreds of thousands of people to be sent the wrong tax demands.

The Revenue has admitted that more than 800,000 taxpayers were issued with incorrect tax demands on 27 December The demands, also known as assessments, appeared to require them to pay double the amount they owed by 31 January.

Ironically, the blunder was caused by an attempt to make it clearer to taxpayers how much they owed. The tax assessments set out the payments owing for the year 1998/99, rather than breaking them up into instalments. But in doing so, they failed to make it obvious that only half the amount was due for payment by the end of January.

The Revenue sent out a letter of apology soon after the blunder came to light, telling taxpayers that the assessment sent out in December might have been calculated by the wrong formula. The farce was compounded when the Revenue was forced to send out further letters of apology making it clear that only some - not all - of the assessments

were wrong. Tax agents are demanding that the Inland Revenue show flexibility about the demands and promises not to charge interest to taxpayers affected by the mistake.

The blunder is the latest in a series caused by the Revenue's new self-assessment system. At the same time a year ago. the Revenue's spanking new computer system issued upwards of 4 million tax demands. Tens of thousands of them incorporated a rather embarrassing mistake: the system had mistaken debits for credits - and vice versa.

The assessments showed refunds due to people who owed tax, and charged people who were owed refunds.

The public's experience of the new system has exposed further absurdities.

Andrea Craig, a 39-year-old health care consultant from north London, was particularly conscientious when she discovered a Revenue error. Last year her office, London Provincial 10 in Gateshead, overlocked a line in her tax return specifying share options due to her. They issued her with a refund.

Knowing that she owed tax, Andrea contacted London Provincial 10, who admitted their error and said they would send her an amended tax demand before 31 January (so that she could pay in time).

Unfortunately, Andrea became fully self-employed shortly afterwards and her papers were sent to a King's Cross office. No amended demand was forthcoming.

"The next thing I knew was in February, when they sent me a new assessment saying I owed them money plus interest because I was overdue," she says. She filled out an appeal form, only to find herself called up by a Revenue official telling her she had "no reasonable grounds for appeal". Only months later, after writing to three senior managers and spending hours on the phone, did Andrea get an apology.

Last week we published an article on tax returns by Sara Williams along with extracts from her book, the 'Lloyd's Bank Tax Guide'. The guide is available to readers of The Independent' at a reduced price of £5 inc p&p (normal retail price, £7.99). To take advantage of the offer, please send a cheque for £5 to Independent Reader Offer. Profile Books, 58a Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8LX

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Let's all be flexible year mortgage has been an endangered species for some time, fol-

lowing radical changes to our lifestyles. But its death-knell was finally sounded this week when a new entrant to the mortgage market pulled the rug out from under the rest of the industry.

In just three weeks, Standard Life's Freestyle Flexibility mortgage has attracted applications worth £500m, nearly half the entire monthly lending of all banks and building societies put together, exploding a few key concepts that the major lenders have resolutely clung to.

The first of these concerns their rigid defence of the way interest is calculated, in the face of consumers' complaints that they are being systematically overcharged. The second is that the mortgages they offer meet customers' needs for flexibility. If only a fraction of the applications being processed by Standard Life mature into loans, the mortgage market will never be the same again.

Its impact was underlined vesterday when Britain's two biggest mortgage lenders, the Halifax and the Abbey National, both disclosed that they are actively developing a similar product, though the Halifax has some reservations. The Nationwide is also examining the scope for further flexibility.

The Woolwich, the first of Britain's mainstream lenders to launch a flexible mortgage, revealed that this is now the first choice of nearly half of all borrowers. The Alliance & Leicester, which recently launched its had been "overwhelmed" by the response.

The reason these mortgages are popular is because they allow borrowers to overpay in the good times, and underpay, or not pay at all, when life gets tough, without having to crawl on bended knee to their bank manager. Insecurity at work, and the increase in contract and casual employment, make this a vital facility for many.

But for really effective flex-

faGIM as at 30 June 1998

Source, LGBM (07,01 99).

The running yield of the

Fixed Interest Trust NA

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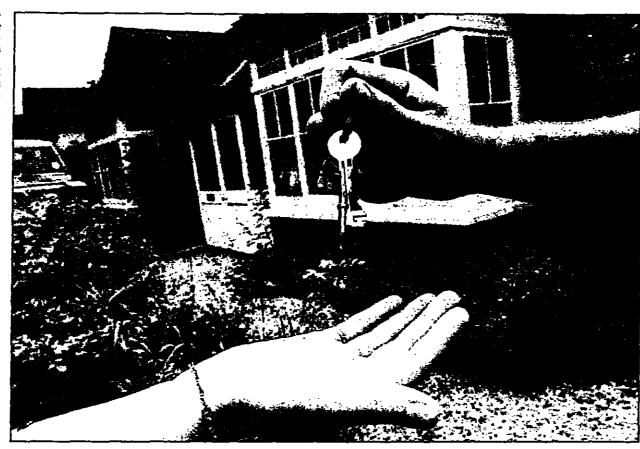
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are those currently applicable and are subject

future performance. Both capsal and the one values



New flexible mortgage deals could save you thousands and be tailored to your requirements

John Lawrence

ibility, interest on these mortgages has to be calculated quite differently from the current method. This has serious implications for computer sys-

tems and the finance industry. Building societies and traditional mortgage lenders have always worked out interest annually. At the beginning of the year they calculate your monthly repayments and your balance remains unchanged own flexible mortgage, said it until the end of the year, when they do the sums again.

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4 year cap	5.99

However, when interest is calculated monthly or daily your balance falls during the year, as you make repayments, and your interest bill falls with it. This is particularly important if you wish to overpay, because you will be given credit for this immediately; it may save you thousands of pounds.

Standard Life, which calcu-

Flexible mortgages are a hit with punters and a miss for old-style lenders. By Teresa Hunter

lates interest daily, estimates that a borrower can slice £2,200 off an £80,000, 20-year mortgage by calculating interest daily rather than annually. A staggering £12,000 can be saved by upping the repayment by £50 a month. Traditional lenders have always fiercely denied that annual calculation costs borrowers more, but there are signs that their defences are beginning to crack.

Alliance & Leicester's mortage marketing manager, Jeff Sutherland-Kay, is convinced that it is only a matter of time

before all mortgages offer flexibility and the choice of monthly rather than annual interest. He says: "Every lender in the country is looking at launching a flexible mortgage, because we know that's what customers want. The world has changed. People no longer wish to make the same repayment over 25 years. They want to pay off more in the good times and less

in the bad times, and for their

overall interest bill to be cut

accordingly - and that means

"I have no doubt that, over time, every mortgage product in the mortgage portfolio will offer this potential, but in the short term there are chronic computer system problems."

monthly interest.

The mortgage brokers John Charcol are less sanguine about lenders' motives for "The thing that's holding them will climb faster as well."

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back is the cost. There will be one hell of a price to pay if the mainstream lenders are forced into flexibility. If the traditional lenders start charging interest on a monthly or daily rather than annual basis, their balance sheets will take a hammering. We are talking tens of millions of pounds."

In his view, it was the Woolwich initiative that broke the mould: "For the first time you had a mainstream lender offering a competitive range of mortgage options with the flexibility to over- and underpay and interest charged monthly. But the Halifax points out

that while monthly charging can work in a customer's favour when he is repaying early, it has the opposite impact for borrowers with difficulties A spokesman says: "Don'

sticking with annual interest. A forget, if interest is adjusted spokesman, Ian Darby, says: monthly or daily, the arrears

LOOSE CHANGE

THE PRICE of traded endowment policies has fallen because of fears of reduced annual and terminal bonuses, but the policies are now cheaper and less volatile than shares, say TEP marketmakers Policy Portfolio. (0181-343-4567 for a stock list). Average annualised

growth of policies sold last

year was 10.35 per cent.

FAMILY MEDIATION is a cheaper option for divorcing couples according to the UK College of Family Mediators, established in 1996. Mediators can be found in the phone book or by calling the college on 0171-391-9162.

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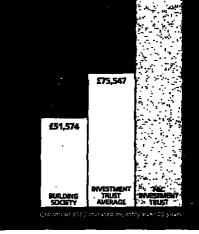
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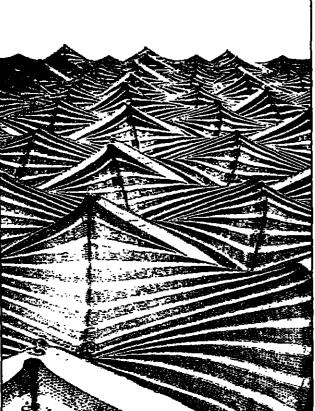
might easily think you were still dreaming. It's not hard to see why: n the half-light, the company's organicooking, three-dimensional creations could onjure up surreal visions of, say, a rockace smothered with barnacles, dinosaur ertebrae or tetrahedra. Blinds hazily remaiscent of trips to the Natural History Juseum might not be everyone's dream lesign discovery, but don't be put off.

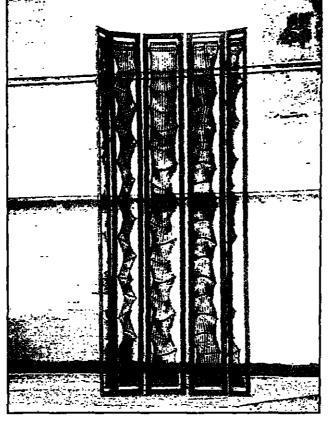
Made of knitted and woven textiles in he subtlest of hand-dyed shades, the linds are as beautiful as they are aresting. "Blinds are a product no one had eally looked at for years, so it seemed a ogical area to go into," says Karina Iolmes, who, with June Swindell, set up alt in 1996. "We had a gut feeling that here was room for our ideas. And there as: we discovered that people wanted ifferent, interesting blinds. "Contemporary design had been about

urniture for the past 10 years," continues iolmes. "But we've entered a new area, hich we call 'working textiles' because ur blinds are not only functional but also ecorative, thanks to their textures and rms. The funny thing is, big furniture deigners are now using highly textured fabics: bouclés and unusual yarns. Even so, gents still don't know what bracket to put s in because we're not textile designers 1 the traditional sense."

Not that the Salt duo - who also make creens - have always relied on agents' elp. Holmes, who has an MA in knitted extiles from the Royal College of Art, and windell, with an MA in woven textiles om Nottingham Polytechnic, bonded thile working at a "loathsome, unproessional" homeware company. Their exerience there - "we learnt how not to do nings" - and a realisation that they hared a "common interest in light and ansparency", galvanised them to apply,

uccessfully, for a Sainsbury's scholarship. Thanks to this, they were able to set up studio at London's Oxo Tower Wharf. The press quickly picked up on us - Elle





In the half-light, these delicate, surreal-looking creations (top) are as beautiful as they are arresting. On closer inspection (above), it is not difficult to see that modern architecture is the inspiration for Salt's extraordinary and sculptural vertical blind systems, made from knitted textiles.

Decoration featured us on its 'New Talent' page - and we got commissioned straight away," says Swindell. Since then, Harrods has been stocking Salt's readymade blinds (from £400) and screens (from £1,200). And the company, which has corporate as well as private clients, is currently kitting out the British Embassy in Moscow, "Consultancy work has started to land in our laps, too," says Holmes.
"Strangely enough, the paper company Arjo Wiggins Fine Papers asked us to

develop some paper textures." While Holmes works with knitted fab-

Swindell specialises in woven textiles made on a loom. Salt's extraordinary, sculptural vertical blind systems - some of which incorporate aluminium rods to support their three-dimensional "totems" (its name for louvres) - are made from knitted textiles. These, says Holmes, are inspired by modern architecture and by "tall, skinny proportions, like the people in Modigliani paintings or Brancusi's

Even Swindell's old-fashioned looking loom is put to innovative use: one of Salt's most original blinds, made from woven texrics using an industrial knitting machine, tiles, is near-transparent at the top and - some open by remote control - others direct on 0171-593 0007

sculptures".

opaque at the bottom. While bringing in some light, it guarantees total privacy, which relates to another inspired Salt idea: blinds which let in a controlled stream of light – or, more surprisingly, to double as a funky light source. Indeed, Salt has developed a "beam blind" incorporating glow-in-the-dark fibres, which, says Swindell, looks "great in restaurants".

Meanwhile, Holmes is designing a blind called Lighten. "A sheet of paper with an electric circuit that lights up will be inserted into the knit," she says. Yet, while Salt's blinds can be impressively hi-tech

is a range of "warm blinds" - roller blinds tisans in Central Asia. As with all Salt's designs, these come in super-subtle, toneon-tone browns and beiges. Our blinds have very busy textures, says Swindell. "If they were colourful, there'd be too much going on.

The blinds can also be made to measure, in which case Holmes and Swindell like to visit their clients to decide on what would best suit their space. "It's like buying a wedding dress, not in a twee sense. but in that the customer is involved in how their blind will look," says Holmes. "We ask for 50 per cent of the cost upfront, so clients need to feel confident with what we're doing," adds Swindell.

The clients' involvement doesn't stop there, however Many of the blinds are fashionably modular, too. "Components can be detached or added to alter the blind's look," says Holmes. The screens, meanwhile, were conceived with open-plan living in mind - they can be moved about to change the layout of a room. "Many of our customers," says Holmes, "live in loft conversions. Some people still value traditional interiors because they're associated with wealth, but there's a new group of people - and interior designers - interested in contemporary design."

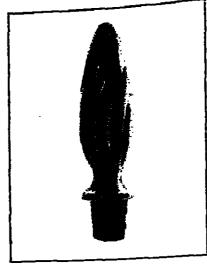
Yet your average interior designer still has some catching up to do on the modern design front, believes Swindell. "We thought the bulk of our clientele would be interior designers or decorators, but it's actually our customers who put them in touch with us. Old-school decorators still source stuff from the chintzier Chelsea Harbour end of the market, but they're

having to change to meet different tastes." By the sound of it, then, Salt isn't going down a blind alley. The company's designs might look unsettlingly surreal, but they're nothing if not directional. Frou-frou Austrian blinds or, for that matter, standard roller blinds - your days could well be numbered.

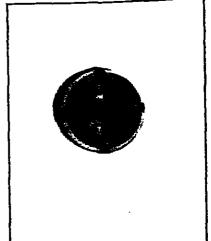
Salt products are available at Harrods (0171-730 1234) or contact the company

SIX OF THE BEST

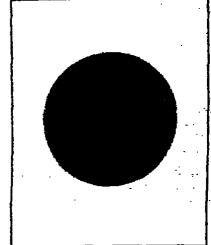
BOTTLESTOPPERS



Muminium stopper, £8, Oliver Bonas (0171-627 4747 for nearest



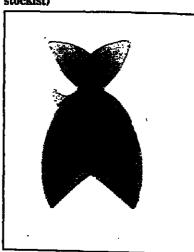
Bouchon de Champagne 'Capsule' £17.50, General Trading Company (0171-730 9411)



Manzoni Pietro wooden stopper, £4.45, David Mellor (0171-730 4259)



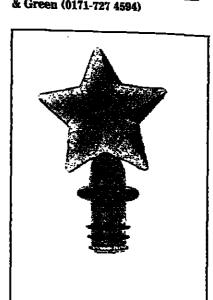
Sterling silver stopper, £48, Links of London (01483 450155 for nearest



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Plastic fish stopper, £4.25, Graham & Green (0171-727 4594)



Plastic star stopper, £1.99, Tesco (enquiries 0800 505555)

SHOPTALK

SOME COMPANIES know exactly how to market themselves to best advantage and Loud and Clear is just one of those. Not only is the catalogue full of bright and funky presents, it even comes with a sheet of dazzling yellow and white stickers to fill up your diary with reminders of not-to-be-forgotten occasions ("hen night", "dinner". "football", "hot date" and, of course, "drinks"). Even better, each of the little stickers comes with the Loud and Clear phone number written across the bottom, just in case you should need a little

gift for that special occasion. Neat idea, eh?

flamboyant silken flowers.

The gifts in question are just as much fun - swirty lollipops,

neon-coloured toy guns and single slices of icing-topped cake, to name just a few. All are sent vacuum-packed in plastic with the appropriate, quirky gift tag attached. The idea is that the gift

doubles up as the greeting, so you select the item you want to send (from £4.95 for a pair of bright red lips or a slice of lightly grilled toast [whatever greeting that says], to £9.95 for the fluffy "mini-nubile" cushion) and then choose the tag to match (remembering to specify your message), before calling 0171-247 4232 to make

GOOD THING

STILL waiting for a call? Give the reluctant Romeo – or Juliet - a chic shove in the direction with a solid silver

Loveheart, I comes either with the usual "Loveheart"

from Judy Wiseman (0181-343 2453). For

£1 extra, get your phone or fax number

or e-mail address engraved on the back.

messages or more modern greetings: "fax me", "e-mail me", etc, and costs £25

CHEESE AND romance don't always make

an obvious coupling but, if you want to impress on Valentine's Day, be prepared to satisfy

starving suitors by filling your fridge with little heart-shaped cranberry and Wensleydale cheeses. They come suitably coated in red wax and cost 99p each from Asda (enquiries 0500 100055).

MURIEL DESAULLES

MAD THING

your order by credit card.

المكناس الاعل

The playboy's toolbox, clockwise from above: Alessi Diabolix bottle

opener, £7.95 (01920

444272 for stockists);

David Niven showing

BarWare Ice Crusher.

£45, House of Fraser (0171-963 2236 for

nearest store); and

Hamilton Beach's

(0171-734 1234)

bulbous chrome Drinks

Master, £59.95, Liberty

how to drink dry

sophisticated way;

martini the

THE POPPLOR

I WANT TO OWN A... PLAYBOY'S BAR KIT

How to spend a happy hour

sex. Having samthe entire bar and aually narrow down your choice to couple of reassuringly predictable and satisfying tipples that you can get at home every night without too following accessories (cocktail bar much effort.

But it doesn't have to be this way. In the Sixties, when everyone was **BLENDER/JUICE EXTRACTOR** swinging, behind rayon curtains As discussed in a healthier column across the land people were con- on juicing earlier this month, cocting martinis and gin slings at nothing approaches the combined their cocktail bars (remember Dustin Hoffman in The Graduate? That could have been your dad).

I was introduced to this alternative way of life when I picked up a white elephant of a cocktail bar at bulbous chrome dome Drinks Masa jumble sale a decade ago. In truth. ter (£59.95, Liberty, 0171-734 1234) though, it never really fitted in anye. or en to be cool weighed a ton, and required half an acre to unfurl its hinged Formica flap top into a glorious semicircle. Its stitchedpadding fascia, meanwhile, was tarstained and fag burnt and its golden braiding had long since become sharp as razor-wire.

Yet at least the thing wasn't as naff as some of its peers, several of which were designed to emulate the prows of classic ocean liners. And, at four quid, it remains my personal undisputed jumble-sale bargain of the century - a welcoming host to pink plastic, coconut-tree swizzlesticks and plywood tooth picks, a beer, then you'll be requiring chrome cocktail shaker, stainless steel strainers, and spirits. An awful lot of spirits.

The beloved cocktail bar survived tower-block-rocking parties in Tower Hamlets, when the only er item of front-room furniture at i e table – was hurled 15 storeys to its sorry destruction. It was the centre-piece of a riotous cocktail party held in a rented West Hampstead house, and illuminated a kitchen in Clapton before, finally, the elegant curved glass in its upper deck was shattered in Stoke New-

ington by my offspring. Although the memory of its mellow golden glow has started to wane, resemble a mould of our planet, is the taste of a Slow Comfortable Screw is harder to exorcise. So if, like

rinking is a bit like me. on occasion you hanker after the life of F Scott Fitzgerald and would pled your way round like to get a Crazy Horse down your neck (for the uninitiated: 20ml made sure that you Scotch. 10ml strawberry liqueur, have experienced 10ml creme de banane, shaken and he most exotic flavours around you strained into a champagne flute, topped up with 60ml of Bolly and garnished with orange and mint), then you will need to invest in the optional):

> style and versatility of Waring's Professional Blender (£149.95) and Extractor (£239, 0181-232 8171 for stockists), although for kitsch bartop credibility, Hamilton Beach's takes the silver medal.

BEER BOTTLE OPENER Name: Alessi Diabolix

Price: £7.95 Stockist: 01920 444272

Description: The Diabolix has a smooth, curved plastic hand-grip topped with impish devil's horns. Designed by Biagio Cisotti in 1994, the opener comes in a handful of colours, but the most appropriate is bright red. Style: ★★★★

Anything else worth considering? If you always spend half-an-hour stumbling around the kitchen look-Culinaire's Crab (£2,95, 0181-868 43555), a bright orange crustacean with a fridge magnet welded to its underbelly.

ICE BOX

the epitome of cool

Style: ***

Name: The Planet Earth acrylic ICE-CRUSHER cube Price: £99

Stockist: John Lewis (0171-629 7711 for nearest store) Description: For novelty value - and

let's face it, the cocktail-making arena is one of the few places where you can go kitsch crazy and still be regarded as having reasonable taste - this clear cube, hollowed out to

Anything else worth considering? ing for something to crack open a Alessi, which is always on hand with a few funky accessories, does a reasonable stainless-steel egg

complete with reindeer horns (£45).

The plastic top-hat ice buckets that

you can get, though, are way beyond

Name: BarWare Ice-Crusher Price: £45

Stockist: House of Fraser (0171-963 2236 for enquiries) Description: My, what sharp teeth you have, Grandma. This chromeplated machine has got a big bite for one so small.

Style ★★★ Anything else worth considering? If you've got a decent blender, then this is one accessory that you can probably live without.

ASTROPATH

SHAKER

Name: The Bullet by Metrokane

Price: £29.75 Stockist: John Lewis (0171-629 7711

for nearest store) Description: An Art-Deco-inspired, bullet cartridge shaker with a 280z capacity and an internal strainer, perfect for making those James

Bond Martinis. Style: ★★★★ Anything else worth considering?

Several manufacturers make the more traditional three-piece, stainless-steel shakers, or you can go for the more simplistic "Boston" shaker, which doesn't include a strainer.

SODA SYPHON Name: Isi Soda Siphon

Price: £39 Stockist: John Lewis (0171-629 7711 for nearest store)

redundant item of hardware, the soda syphon remains a must for every well-stocked bar, for its swanky sense of style, its potential as a lifesaver in emergencies involving smouldering cocktail dresses and for all-round high links. They often come in gaudy golds and ruby red casing, but Isi's soda syphon has a restrained black and chrome top

Description: Despite being a pretty

Style: ★★★★ **BAR ACCESSORIES** Name: Bar Atlantic eight-piece

and a tasteful mesh casing.

stainless steel bar set Price: £40 Stockist: Debenhams (0171-408 4444

for stockists) Description: The tiny bucket may be more appropriate for holding cashew nuts than a wine bottle and

M-

3

ice (as optimistically illustrated on metal bar spoons, swizzle sticks the box), but otherwise this set straws, cocktail sticks, a muddler (for comprises the surgeon's tools of the crushing sugar and bruising mint budding barman: clip-on cocktail strainer, bottle-opener, stirrer, jigger. knile, ice-cube tongs and doublesided measures for 25ml and 50ml shots respectively.

Style: *** Anything else worth considering? Well, if money is no object you can quickly rack up a Third World debt on silver-plated bar furnishings, such as a 50ml, £105 measure, from

Selfridges (0171-629 1234) FINISHING TOUCHES

AQUET01990601

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Enter

To make sure you're more of shakermaker than Tom Cruise in the cocktail department, ensure that the following items are also readily to hand; chopping-board, citrus peeler,

leaves), suitable glasses (avoid ones etched with functional words such as "juice" and "martini"), a jug, Irish coffee spoons, and an ice cube tray. A decent selection of spirits and mixers (Angostura bitters and grenadine are essential) is also advisable, plus a little cheat book that can be discreetly tucked away. The notebook-sized How to Make Over 200 Cocktails (50p, Claremont Books) is perfect. Finally, don't forget the finishing touch without which no cocktail party guest can recognise their own ridiculousness - the paper umbrellas (£1.69, Tesco, 0800 505555

for enquiries).

paring-knife, a grater, long-handled The writer is deputy editor of 'ZM'

CHECK IT OUT

AQUARIUS

Officialities can be speediad mes

THE MUST be something about picture of the room the air roach of a new millennium and then, after paying that nakes people want to go all technological. Whatever the reason, even "alternative" aspects of contemporary life are repackaging themselves into hi-tech phenomena. if you're seeking peace of body. mind or soul there's almost certainly a futuristic gadget out there to help

IN EUROPE

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you achieve it. If you're searching for something to soothe the soul, forget the odd wind chime here and there, these days even feng shui has gone digital. The latest feng shut website offers an interactive service that will let even troubled travellers bring feng shui to their hotel room. Simply connect up to the site, pay by credit card (£11 per room) and sit back while Kate Lord and Huw Griffiths, the online feng shui consultants, assess your surroundings.

Patience will be necessary, however. The site is still in its teething stage so there is a long wait while all the images load up - the suggestion is that you scroll through the instructions in the pop-up window to ss the time – and my computer put own a very bad ch'i foot by refus-

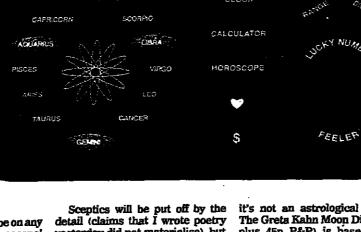
ing to let me access the service. If your computer is more generous, start at the beginning and read the consultants' biographies, catch up on the latest celebrity visitors and browse the example room report before going to "start" After tapping in the direction of the room's door, you use the computer to "draw" a

the necessary cash, wait for the report to materialise.

Once you've taken

the site's advice and got your living space sorted, move onto the mind with an Astropath. For those who secretly scan the papers for the horoscopes, £19.99 will buy a whole year's worth of detailed daily astrological predictions. nattily named machines look reassuringly like the calculator included in its range of functions (so no one need know what you're up to) and are available for

each sign of the zodiac. To find out your horoscope on any day in 1999, click on the 'horoscope' button, punch in the date and scroll across the battery-powered LCD screen. Compiled by a team of professional astrologers - including Nicholas Campion, the president of the Astrological Association of Great Britain - the horoscopes are enticingly frivolous but, as with all things astrological, whether you decide that they are accurate or not largely comes down to your own beliefs.



yesterday did not materialise), but it's fun, would make a great present and has all kinds of useful functions. The Astropath helps you choose numbers for the National Lottery. houses the afore-mentioned calculator and an alarm clock and even works out emotional and professional compatibility with other people for each day of the year Blimey! The latest scheduling accessory

is also related to astrology although

it's not an astrological calendar. The Greta Kahn Moon Diary (£5.95 plus 45p P&P) is based around "moon knowledge". The diary laments the fact that "the best time to sow seed or to cut wood ceased to be a theme in the lives of bankers and office workers", but it aims to change all that and use the same principles as are used in agriculture to help organise the hip urbanite's

Strange, but apparently it's true. The different planetary positions and

hairdressing year

stellar constellations throughout the lunar cycle transmit "cosmic energies" which affect us physically.

2

O

The effect of all this is that a waxing moon is the ideal time for cutting and nourishing hair treatments whereas a waning moon is a better time for cleansing. Certain days are good for colouring and antidandruff treatments and other days - "water" days - are bad for pretty much everything except structure-

improving treatments.

The Astropath, left, and moon diary, above

page in the diary, you must have your hair analysed then, once you've pinpointed its type, you can consult the diary to find out what you should or shouldn't do to your hair. Each day of the year has an entry listing whether it's a good or bad day for cutting, perming or pretty much The feng shui website is at

necessary hair appointments. In case you're wondering, today is a good day for cutting your hair if www.gretakahn.com or by phone Before you so much as turn a you want to increase volume and on 0181-886 7720

encourage rapid growth. Hair care treatments will be effective and oxidising and bleaching processes will work well... it doesn't say anything about washing, but I think I'll risk it. RHIANNON BATTEN

everything to do with your hair as www.online-fengshui.com; for well as space to scribble down all the Astropath stockists, call 0171-229 9394; copies of 'The Moon And Your Hair can be ordered from

Small thinks big

THE FORD Focus hit the car scene with the same sort of impact that Michael Owen hit the football pitch, and the accolades were just as fast in coming. The hatchback version of the Focus - the only model launched thus far - has won just about every magazine comparison test it's been in. It's been fêted around Europe and also easily won the 1999 Car of the Year award

What was significant about its victory in the COTY was not just the margin of its win, which was big, but the widespread nature of its popularity. The judges from France liked it just as much as those from Finland; ditto the Greeks, Germans, Belgians, Britons, Swedes and Spaniards. Often the COTY judges back their national favourites. Not this year. The Focus wiped the board. To cap off a terrific couple of months for Ford, the Focus has just picked up top marks in the official NCAP European safety tests.

But like any new star, there comes a time when the sparkle will start to flicker. And that's when the critics, who have lauded the new Focus like no other mass-made car I can remember, will be poised.

The first big opportunity for the knockers comes when a car's model range starts to proliferate. Yes, yes, the hatch may be ace. But can the other versions which follow possibly be as good? Well, the Focus range is about to go from hatch only. to estate and four-door saloon as well. Here, we test the load-lugging estate version.

Let's start on a sour note. The hold-all model doesn't look as elegant as the freshly-styled hatch. The estate's back end looks rather grafted on, like a box-room extension to an already handsome building. The stylish Sloane Square front sits uncomfortably with the suburban semi-detached stern. There are very few estates that look like they were designed as estates from the outset, with most looking like converted hatches or saloons.

In lugging capacity, though, the new estate is excellent. Ford claims it is the roomiest car in its class, and if you start to cart around big loads vou'll be unlikely to gainsay them. The carrying area is high, wide, unciullered and weil able to accom-



On the road: the Ford Focus handles superbly, with a range of engines to choose from

SPECIFICATIONS

Make and model: Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec estate £14,000 Engine: 1,596cc, four cylinders. 16 valves, 100bhp at 6,000rpm Transmission: Five-speed manual, front wheel drive Performance: Maximum speed 115mph, 0-60mph in 11.0 seconds, 40.9mpg average

Rivals

Citroën Xsara 1.6LX estate £13,635. Good ride, nippy enough and quite roomy. but lacks the engaging driving manners of the Focus

modate large objects. The rear ing excellent head- and leg-room. seats fold forward, to let in more In every area except shoulderluggage. Pity the bottom back-seat room, it is as spacious as the Moncushion is one-piece, when the rear deo in the next-class-up. Trim backrests are split 60:40. It's one of quality is also good, even if the Focus lacks the class of the Golf. the few obvious signs of Ford penny The dashboard is a strange fu-

pinching, and does compromise turistic design, which won't appeal the car's load-carrying versatility. As with the Focus hatch, the rear to everyone. But it sites all the conseat is outstandingly roomy, offertrols very conveniently - including

the radio, up nice and high in the centre of the dash. The only blemish is on the top-range Ghia version, which gets awful fake wood, which Peugeot 306 1.6LX estate clearly comes from a cheap tube £14,220. Stylish, good to drive, rather than a majestic tree. soft riding, but not as spacious The Focus estate drives su-

as the Ford perbly. It handles and steers as well as the Focus hatch, the class bench-Vauxhall Astra 1.6LS estate mark, and is well ahead of rivals. It's £14,045. Probably the Focus's only when the load starts to get rekeenest rival. Spacious and ally heavy that its fleetness suffers. handsome, but the cabin's trim There's a range of engines on

offer, but the best is the 1.6-litre petrol engine. It is smooth revving. Volkswagen Golf 1.8CL estate pleasingly brisk and extremely eco-£13.920. The estate Golf still nomical. You should have little difuses the old Golf's ficulty getting close to 40mpg. If you underpinnings, so it's want more zip, but less refinement, outgunned by the new Ford in the 1.8- and 2.0-litre engines won't just about every way disappoint.

Personally, I'd stick with the more handsome five-door Focus hatch, and pay the home-delivery fee every time I buy too much at Ikea or Homebase. But if you really want the carrying capacity, and fancy a small estate, then there is no better choice. The styling may be more disjointed than the hatch. But the Focus estate is still a terrifically good car.

Kings of the road at knockdown prices

If you have got to have a 4x4, then the current market slump means now is the time to pick up a bargain. By James Ruppert

FOUR-BY-FOURS have been found out. Used off-roaders are now officially in the price doldrums and are cheaper than they have been for

That is odd because the winter is usually boom time for vehicles of this type, and one would expect to see values strengthening along with demand. However, if you genuinely need to buy or have always promised yourself a 4x4, now is probably the time to buy

Even so, some models are better value than others. According to the January issue of CAP Black Book. one of the motor industry's leading price guides, the 4x4 sector has been struggling for most of 1998. It believes that the trend will continue this year. CAP makes the observation that buyers favour the two opposite ends of this market. Fashionable, so called lifestyle 4x4s (such as Honda CRVs and Toyota RAV 4s) are still popular, while high-mileage, well-established off-roaders more than five years old are doing very well. Everything else is struggling.

So there has never been a better time to put this marketplace under the microscope and maybe even dip your toes into the wonderful world of used off-roaders.

So what is happening? Well, certain kinds of 4x4s are coming to the end of their fashion cycle. A lot of buyers switched from hot hatches to 4x4s in the early Nineties when insurance premiums went through the roof and appreciated the attention-seeking dimensions of a twostorey truck. It did not take long for owners to realise that they were actually slow, ugly, uneconomical and, in the urban areas where they were mostly used, a pain to park. Bad publicity about pedestrian safety from bull bars did not help either, and so the 4x4 backlash was in full swing. That soon filtered down to the used market, making it harder to sell certain models.

CAP identified two particular models at the top end of the market. The Range Rover 4.6 HSE costs a staggering £50,990. However to the gentlemen of the motor trade, a 1998 R-registration example is worth



just £33,800. With only 10,000 miles on the clock and buffed up for the forecourt, it will be temptingly priced at no more than £36,995.

CAP also thought that the Mitsubishi Shogun GLX was a high-profile model set to struggle this year. By contrast, though, genuine, pre-used 4x4s, like the older Land Rover Discovery, Vauxhall Frontera and Isuzu Trooper are all in high demand. That probably has a lot to do with all three of those models recently being replaced by pretty

I could feel the seller wilting under not too much pressure to bring the price down

much physically identical, although technically superior new models. Marketing research reveals that people like the familiar, chunky shapes, but that also seems to be doing no harm to used values, although in the short term, they may make the latest models suffer a price crisis. Most surprising of all is the strength of the real muddy boots brigade. The Land Rover, in it's Defender and older guise, continues to perform like the legend it is and

Lada may not the most fashionable motoring name, but the discontinued Niva range still makes converts. This cheap and cheerful vehicle still manages to get an enthusiastic fan club for just a few

is never likely to go out of fashion.

thousand pounds. Daihatsus are also respected rather than fashion able and the tough Fourtrak is the best of that breed. Indeed, Daihatsu with the Terious 4x4, tried to corner the micro off-road market with this model and has ended up slashing the new price by more than £2,000.

If you don't mind being unfashionable, there are lots of bargains to be had. A 1994 three-door Discovery 300Tdi which has covered 70,000 miles costs at least £800 less than a five-door. If you can afford the fuel bills, knock more than £1,000 off for a petrol V8.

If you want a real 4x4 bargain, then you have to buy a vehicle from someone who maybe should not have got themselves lumbered with an off-roader in the first place. These 4x4 wannabes won't have damaged the vehicle off road, will have gently run it in and should be desperate the see the back of it. I took a trawl through the classified advertisements to see how long it would take to find some giveawzy 4x4s. I found a 1988 Jeep Grand Cherokee Orvis which had done a year's motoring up for grabs at £28,000. Selling for more than £33,000 new, I could feel the seller willing under not too much pressure, bringing the price down to the earlier £20,000s. Then there was the Frontera owner who gave it all away in the advertisement: he wanted to part-exchange his L-registration 2.3 TD model for a Vauxhall Corsa TD. Otherwise they wanted £8,500.

It is worth mentioning that there are increasing numbers of Japanese import models. These Mitsubishi Shoguns are badged Pajero and come with every conceivable extra for under £10,000. The Japanese Import Centre (01883 7444439) is well worth a call.

Range Rover anyone? Well there isn't any good reason to pay much more than £10,000. There seem to be a lot of the last of the K and L registration models being cleared by the gentry. Maybe they know something we don't. Perhaps thirsty old Range Rovers are going to be banned. At these prices, they will certainly be an endangered species.

THERE'S A grey revolution going silver-haired set, are trying to be people, usually more mature told the car companies.

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The over 50s - the Saga set have the highest disposable incomes, the greatest amount of leisure time, are the least likely to haggle and complain, will pay more for good service, and are usually the most loyal customers. And yet, in all their ads and their public utterances, car makers seem obsessed with winning ever-younger customers. Ageism is rife. Older buyers are being swept aside, in the car makers' quest to be seen

as young and trendy. Even Mercedes-Benz and Voivo, past champions of the

of the Mercedes S-class, the world's greatest car - usually bought by those on the wrong side of 50 - the talk was of trying to court a younger clientele. (Mercedes' boss did refer to "youthful customers" as being 40-45, which is not how Doc

Boyzone's publicists would define youth.) Volvo, once the seminal sensible car for sensible people, now has ad campaigns which promote style and high performance – characteristics which traditional Volvo buyers have long eschewed. Sensible

Martens, Dolce & Gabbana and

comfort ahead of sex appeal and the 0-60 figures. Volvo,

apparently, no longer does so.

Both Volvo and Mercedes are trying to enjoy the same success as BMW and Audi in opening the wallets of young professionals. This seems wholly misguided, given that 50-pluses are better customers, in just about every way, than the 25-45s. Besides, the Zimmers don't like Bimmers because BMW has a flash, trendy image, which is complete anathema to many thinking people. Driving a BMW (especially a red one) is still a little bit like wearing a Versace



Older buyers are being swept aside in the car makers' quest to be seen

as young and trendy

tie or a sweat-shirt with "Polo" a very gentlemanly thing to do.

The guest to win young customers is usually misbegotten, anyhow. Renault put great emphasis on how the Twingo baby car, sold throughout Europe but not in the UK, would win over the under-30s. Here was a car that had brightly coloured seats, chunky Fisher Price switchgear, and Toytown styling. It had all the hallmarks of "Youth Appeal". It has also proved a great success, particularly in France. But guess who bought it? In the first year, most

customers were over 50. "It was a huge surprise," a. Renault marketing boss told me. cars for old people who value Twingo's freshness. But young people, subsequent research showed, regard buying a car as a serious thing to do, so they tend

to prefer sober, sensible cars."

Honda is another maker that finds itself in a dilemma. It is desperate to win an image as a manufacturer of trendy cars for trendy people. It built the NSX supercar, which was better than any Ferrari of the time, even if it didn't sell well. It has done Formula One successfully. And yet, in Britain at any rate, its saloon and hatch models are the consummate Eastbourne Expresses – sweet, well-made

OAGL GAGTA "We'd love a younger audience in Britain, but we can't desert our key customers," the marketing manager told me somewhat ruefully a year or so ago. But why try to have a younger

audience? I'm desperate for one car maker to break ranks, see over-50s as desirable customers instead of profitable embarrassments, and admit grey is good. How about a limitededition Volvo (maybe called the V40 Viagra) with woollen blanket upholstery, M&S cardie colours. check-patterned roof lining and -

the pièce de résistance - a

bifocal windscreen?

MOTORING

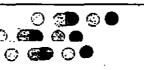
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MY WORST CAR

SIMON NEARN'S RENAULT 5 GORDINI

Strictly no left turn

IVE HAD so many really awful cars over the years, but in their own special way I sort of still love them. When I was a car dealer, the number of bad cars I came across was horrendous. Before then, I got through a heap of cars as a student. The one I remember the best was a Renault 5.

It wasn't just an ordinary one, though, it was the fast one. in the shape of the Gordini version with a 1,400cc engine. I found it pretty safe, because it really wasn't fast enough to fall off the road. The trouble was that the gear knob kept coming off at the worst possible moment - such as changing gear. It would do odd things and make a nasty noise every time I turned left. Further investigation revealed that it had suffered a big shunt on the left-hand side and not been put back together very well afterwards.

I swore that I would never have one again, but that didn't stop me sticking with the Gordini for the time being, which meant that it could leave me stranded in the middle of roadworks on the M25. It had to go, but that Gordini needed some special selling skills. So when the buyer came around for a test drive, I told him to drive missire above 50mph and did



Renault 5 Gordini – a nasty noise at every turn

right out of the house, first right, then right and finally right back into my drive. That was the only way I could avoid the noisy left-hand side showing up. Mind you, the guy I sold

The gear knob kept coming off at the worst moment

it to in Wigan was back two days later to complain. After that, I remember having a horrible bright orange Austin Metro. It never broke down, but it would

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abandon me at the NEC in Birmingham. I would never want another one, but I did end up with something as bad It was a Vauxhall Astra 2.0

GTE. Like the Gordini, it was a hot hatch, except that it would spin its wheels going up a hill and the handling was appalling. In lots of ways it was worse than the Renault and Metro put together, Luckily, someone liberated it on a bank holiday weekend in Manchester.

Simon Nearn is the managing director of Caterham Cars, one of the UK's largest whollyowned car manufacturers. Buy one of their sports cars by calling 07000 000077

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THE INDEPENDENT

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PROPERTY

They beat a path to your door

Would you back the right to roam if you had a public footpath outside your sitting room? By Penny Jackson

relish the thought of being peered at over the garden hedge while enjoying an al fresco summer lunch. A home in the country tends to mean peace, quiet and

public gaze by acres of land. But James Laing is used to strange faces popping up. His Berkshire farmhouse is surrounded on three sides by either a footpath or

above all privacy, shielded from the

'Ramblers must understand that what is just grass to them is a crop to us'

bridle path. Walkers and riders are as much part of his landscape as the animals, and he has few complaints. They almost always stop and say good morning, and ask what we are doing. They have a genuine interest in the countryside. In every respect, it is an enjoyable experience."

Controversy over the right to roam makes it easy to believe that landowner and public are locked in battle over the use of the countryside. Even though it is an issue affecting mainly large estates with open land,

it does make people think twice before buying a property with a public right of access. Some of the footpaths can run close to the main building. In James Laing's case, very close.

When you get to the top of our driveway, the path comes to within 40 yards of the house, which you can see straight ahead. Then you can effectively walk right through the farm buildings and see the house from the other side over the garden hedge. The land is open there, with no gates or styles. Our main worry is security. We have had three burglaries since we moved here eight years ago."

As the owner of 80 acres of land, Laing, who works for estate agents Strutt & Parker, who are strongly associated with the country, is in no doubt that landowners should be more welcoming, not less. "If we create proper parking areas at the start of footpaths, there will less reason for people to stray on to grazing land. How often do you see one start on a narrow verge in a bramble hedge and with nowhere to park for half a mile? Then walkers roam illegally across fields until they pick up the route path. Worse still, they are likely to block up gateways with their cars.

"My problem is not with ramblers but with motorcyclists. If a group of kids come along whistling and singing, that's great. What I do object to is when a motorbike, which shouldn't be there, spoils our privacy. When they race around on a Sunday



It's always nice to meet new people - as long as they behave responsibly and respect residents' right to a bit of privacy

afternoon without silencers, the noise is like holding a chain saw. They can be physically and verbally abusive. One took a swing at a guest last summer. By the time the police arrive, they ve disappeared."

Nor is it just bikes. Drivers of fourwheel vehicles are equally tempted by the open land. This kind of scenario is why some buyers won't contemplate buying a place where the public have access. As they see it, the public has lost sight of the fact that these paths originally existed for a

the pub. Their fear is of numbers and confronting the badly behaved. At the Exeter office of Knight

Frank, Richard Addington is used to buyers from the south-east throwing up their hands in horror. "I try to explain that in Devon we have 3,500 miles of footpaths and, apart from the coastal paths, they are not used much. There isn't the same pressure on them as in the south-east. Local people are more relaxed about it." Last summer he sold two farm-

few villagers to get to work or nip to houses on the coast, both with a couple of cottages and 25 acres. The one that was very private sold for more than £500,000, while the other with a footpath that led quite close to the house, sold under balf a million.

"There was a difference of about 15 per cent. The footpath was definitely a large factor, because anything that close to the sea would normally get a good price."

It is not unknown to lose a sale altogether. In Knight Frank's Guildford office. Nigel Mitchell says that the of running into the public; some of

saleability of such properties decreases, even in areas such as Hazelmere. "It's a particular problem where old farm cottages have been converted into a house. One, sitting in the middle of 30 acres, had a footpath running past the sitting room window." At the moment, he has a cottage for sale in three quarters of an acre with a private right of way across it. "If it was a public footpath,

it would be far more of a problem." Some owners enjoy the prospect

them are farmers. Injured cattle or sheep stuck on their backs have been rescued after walkers have discovered them en route. "They must understand that what is grass to them, is a crop to us." says one.

"And stick to the footpaths." Walking is the only activity allowed since the prosecution earlier this century of an anti-hunt demonstrator. He stood on the footpath waving his umbrella and was found guilty of doing something other than walking. You

Can Carol Vorderman really help you sell your home?

As the TV schedules fill up with property programming, Ginetta Vedrickis looks at the makeover phenomenon

SOME VENDORS go to extreme engths. Inviting Carol Smillie or even Carol Vorderman to give your home a quick makeover might be going a little far but could it help you sell?

Changing Rooms famously uses staple guns, MDF and Handy Andy to transform suburban domesticity into, if Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen has a say, something more closely resembling a bordello. Its ITV rival, Better Homes, features Carol Vordermann overseeing sledgehammers and wrecking balls with the emphasis on serious structural change as two families compete to see who can add most value to their properties.

Cynics might assume the bordello look hinders sales but some estate agents are keen to try unconventional ways of achieving commissions. Paul Curtis of Roy Brooks' Dulwich branch appeared in C5's House Doctor, in which "real estate stylist" Ann Maurice advises vendors how to imgove their properties' appearance.

'You've got to look at your house as others do, which is hard if you've lived there some time'

Paul Curtis nominated two prop-erties on his books which had not sold and viewers saw prospective buyers give opinions before and after Ann's makeover. Did the programme attract buyers? "We didn't sell either of them," says Paul who still credits the improvements of one "appalling" house:
"Basically it was heaped with underwear and what the cameras couldn't capture was the smell.

After Ann Maurice fearlessly advised the vendor to remove the clutter, including the surfeit of undergarments, the property looked (and must have smelt) fresher - so why didn't Paul sell it? "We had an in-cent buyer but the vendor got greedy d sold through another agent for

10,000 more." In contrast. Paul's other property Viss a beautiful roof-terrace flat which a lovely flat but the programme couldn't change the fact that it's on a main road," says Paul who firmly believes that House Doctor, unlike programmes featuring structural hanges, reminds vendors of the



Terrie Towell, star - or victim - of BBC's 'Changing Rooms'

obvious advantages of ensuring that their assets always look their best: "It's not necessary to renovate but it's common sense to tidy up and it pays." Daisy Goodwin, House Doctor's

editor, agrees - and takes credit for turning around the infamous "house with underpants": "No one in their right mind would have bought that house but we sold it." She believes that most properties "given the Ann treatment" sell quicker and for more: "You've got to look at your house as others see it, which is hard if you've lived there for some time. But you wouldn't turn up for an interview

wearing old jeans and trainers and it's the same when selling."

Comparing buying to interviewing. Daisy says that prospective buy-ers decide within 10 seconds and she calls Ann Maurice's advice brutal but effective: "On TV it's essential not to pull punches." How did recipients respond to brutal criticism? "Some of them were dumbstruck until they saw their homes re-done and then they were convinced."

Daisy believes that Ann's background as an American real-estate agent gives her the edge over her trace of human life: "We put fresh flow-British counterparts: "Agents there ers out and clear everything away so Better Homes: Mon 8.30pm ITV

home is a nightmare. You can get pushed into doing things you don't want to do." She views House Doctor differently: "All these houses weren't selling and we helped them do it." Someone who agreed to a TV makeover is Terrie Towell who, with husband Brian, allowed the BBC Changing Rooms team to transform their bedroom while they, with stylist Linda Barker, remade their neighbour's son's room. Though it was originally the neighbour's idea to apply, Terrie enjoyed the experience

it's like a botel. Trouble is, it looks so

good that we don't want to move." She

previously worked on Homefront, an-

other makeover programme, but admits that she wouldn't undergo one

herself "Not in a million years. You

don't have much control and the

stress of TV crews and builders in your

makeover bedroom "disgusting" she liked the end results: "It was hard work but I loved everything they did." On 10 February the nation (well a few million viewers) will be privy to the inside of Terrie's lavender bedroom and, yes, she does cry on screen but puts this down to exhaustion rather than elation. All will be revealed then but the prospect of being recognised in the street is not a worry: "I don't mind if they buy me a drink." She believes her TV makeover will not affect future sales in real terms but will definitely improve saleability: "I don't think it will add pounds on but it could

but says it was easy to be "talked into

things". While she calls her pre-

be a good selling point." Paul Curtis agrees that properties which have appeared on TV hold added attraction for buyers and, by drawing attention to an area, help push up local prices. This week's tabloid headline "Changing Rooms wrecked my marriage" told the story of Stewart Bush, whose relationship foundered following his wife's reaction to the "futuristic silver revamp", forcing him to sell his Sidcup house.

Mykel Nicolaou

have a professional attitude and must

pass exams. Most are mature women

with a real sense of what people want.

Here you get spotty 24-year-olds who

just have to be able to drive VW Golfs.

They are too worried about losing their

commissions but I think sellers would

prefer agents who say, 'Do this and you

for other peoples' belongings and her

own three purchases have all been of

can make thirty grand more'."

Mr Bush won't be interested but if you're not the shy retiring type Daisy Goodwin is seeking vendors with hard-to-sell properties for House Doctor's spring series. Not everyone need apply: "We rejected one which had been on the market for six years. If Daisy admits to a serious distaste you're next to the M4 there are some houses that will never sell."

empty properties. When selling she House Doctor: 0171-436 6064; makes strenuous efforts to erase any Roy Brooks: 0181-299 3021; Changing Rooms: Wed 8pm BBC1;

STEPPING STONES

ONE WOMAN'S PROPERTY STORY



Jennie Burgen and children

SINCE 1976, stained-glass maker Jennie Burgen has bought three properties. She now lives in a cottage in Wimbledon.

In the late Sixties, Jennie, her husband and a kitten lived in a small bedsit in Putney. The building backed on to a main railway line: "It was so noisy that you had to stop all conversation when a train went by." Sharing a "grotty"

bathroom with three other tenants while eight months pregnant brought the inevitable realisation: "It was time to move on." When her mother-in-law heard about a threebedroom, three-reception Victorian house for rent in Wimbledon, Jennie went to see it: "It was a dump, with a leaking roof in the back extension, dangerous Thirties wiring and rotting window frames."

Most people would have balked but not Jennie: "We were thrilled, to us it was a palace." Every six months the landlord "repaired" the leaking roof using "bitumen and bits of old carpet", but by 1976, "two babies, much work and a second relationship later", Jennie and her partner bought the house as sitting tenants for £10,000.

Jennie loved the house and its space but hankered after a country cottage although "the time was never right". By 1986, the relationship had ended and Jennie sold for £69,000. She bought a smaller place in

nearby Motspur Park for £50,000. This house was also Victorian and over time Jennie carried out much work including restoring the kitchen and stained-glass door which prompted her to take an evening class in stainedglass making. This led to a career - Jennie restored most of this street's doors. But when her children left home the house seemed too large.

Four months ago, she saw a "lovely two-bedroom 1860s cottage" for sale in Merton Park. Jennie sold for £155,000 and bought for £165,000 although local agents Finch & Co. estimate "tip-top" cottages in this conservation area now go for about £190,000.

She may not have made it to the country but, just 10 minutes from Wimbledon station, lives next to a field and a churchyard. GINETTA VEDRICKAS

Those moves in brief... 1976 - bought threebedroom Wimbledon house as sitting tenant for £10,000, sold for £69,000. 1986 - bought smaller house in Motspur Park for £50,000 sold for £155,000. 1998 - bought cottage for

If you would like your moves to be featured write to: Nic Cicutti, Stepping Stones, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E14 5DL, £100 will be awarded for the best story.

£165,000, worth £190,000.

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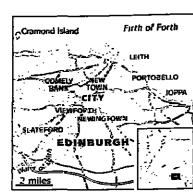
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HOT SPOT EDINBURGH

Turning over a new Leith



ie Scottish Parliament is coming. The Scottish Parliament is coming. Unfortunately, Edinburgh property conversations these days often end where they began: with anticipation of the new Parliament at Holyrood, in the city centre.

How much turbulence will it cause in Edinburgh property values? Some local estate agents expect limited movement, in keeping with a city of half a million people. Others anticipate soaring prices, while Colin Strang Steel, a partner at Knight Frank, believes that most of the effects that will happen already have: "I think prices will start to level off now. Most of the demand will soon be satisfied."

Colin Campbell is an army officer, and he has been watching the property market carefully. A single man who is currendy flat-hunting, he is concentrating his efforts in central Edinburgh: "I'm looking in New Town, Stockbridge and Comely Bank, and prices are going through the roof. A few months ago, a flat on offer for £79,000 went for £105,000."

Mr Campbell contrasts Edinburgh nightlife with that of London, where evenings can begin in one area and often end up miles away in a completely different part of town. "Here, you walk out of your house, go to one section of town, and stay for the night. Living away from the centre would detract from that."



Leith, once the city's port, is being transformed into a London Docklands-style area

believes, are counter-balanced in that this area will be "more insulated against price falls in future".

Excitement regarding the new Parliament is obscuring the perception of many waterfront refurbishment schemes, that are putting previously unappealing or non-residential sections of town firmly on to the housebuvers' map. The new home of the

And soaring city-centre prices, he royal yacht Britannia, Leith, "was once Edinburgh's port and it had been run down," says solicitor George Clark, chairman of the Edinburgh Solicitors Property Centre (ESPC).

"This historic port now has developments similar to London's Docklands, such as bonded warehouses converted into lofts, and trendy restaurants, bars and nightlife.

Mr Clark notes that Leith has

east along the harbour, to areas such as Portobello and Joppa. "Portobello was a Victorian holiday resort with good housing stock but no scope for Docklands-type development." The entire waterfront is slated for massive redevelopment in the future.

Closer to the city centre, "certain parts of Newington have Victorian vilSunday Mail

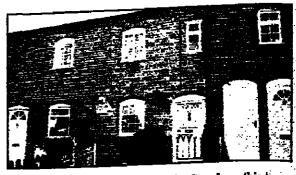
already seen big price increases, las, but the sections with flats may at-which are propelling buyers further tract buyers priced out of Marchmont, where two-bedroom flats sell for approximately £100,000," notes Mr Clark. "The same flat in Viewforth is only £70-£80,000, and further out, prices in Slateford are even lower." Mr Clark's take on Parliament? It

may stimulate the rental rather than the buyer's market.

ROBERT LIEBMAN

THREE TO VIEW

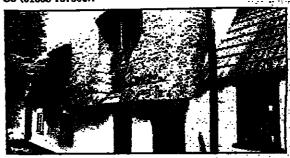
HERE FOR THE BEER



IT'S ONLY about a 100ft walk to The Star from this twobedroom cottage in Mill Lane, Romsey, Hampshire, with another half a dozen pubs not much further on in the town centre. The front door of the brick-built terraced cottage leads directly into the kitchen which has modern limed oak units, built-in oven and hob and a Chinese slate floor. There's an 11ft sitting room with exposed brick wall, beams, an open fireplace and staircase leading to the first floor. Outside there is a landscaped garden with an octagonal decking area and pergola. Offers are invited from around £115,000. For details call Nicholas Zorab (01794 511911).



IT'S A brisk 10 minute walk from Toad House to the White Swan in North Walsham, 15 miles from Norwich: time to build up a real thirst for East Anglia's famed ales. The four-reception, four-bedroom detached house with roses around the windows was formerly two cottages, but was recently converted and renovated. It has a 13ft farmhouse-style kitchen, with built-in oven and hob and a door leading to a sun room, a conservatory and a large breakfast room. There is a private rear garden with pond and fruit trees, a terra and garden shed. Offers are invited from around £129.950. For details contact Francis Hornor Brown & Co (01603 767606).



THIS 17th-century cottage, tucked away down a pedestrian-only lane in Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, three miles from Royston, is hidden from the road and has no garage or parking space. But as it's only a minute's walk from The Black Horse at one end of the lane and The Dolphin at the other, who needs a car? In a village of lovely old cottages, number six Little Lane maintains the status quo. Grade II listed, it has a 22ft fireplace, a study with an internal stained-glass window and three bedrooms, all with sloping ceilings. Close to Meldreth railway station, the journey to King's Cross is about an hour. The guide price is £139,950, details from Bruce Munro (01799 522628) or Tuckers (01223 845240).

THE LOW-DOWN

Transport: Edinburgh has an international airport with daily flights to more than 10 major UK train, journey times are 4.5 hours to London, 1.5 hours to Newcastle. and 45 minutes to Glasgow.

Lies and damned lies: The **Edinburgh Solicitors Property** Centre (ESPC) compiles and distributes average prices and percentage changes for several unner-city areas as well as the suburbs, West Lothian, East Lothian, and Midlothian. Citycentre prices increased 23 per cent between 1997 and 1998, and Marchmont and Bruntsfield

jumped 18 per cent. Leading all

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categories, however, are suburban post-1920 detached villas, which have risen by 26 per cent. The ESPC has been tracking prices for more than 25 years and has yet to see a drop, the average rising from £9,084 in 1973 to £80,000 in 1998.

£165pw

New developments: When completed this summer, Bryant Homes' Heriot Square in Roseburn will contain nearly 200 two- and three-bedroom flats (146 already sold), being built in six phases. The 19 on current release are selling for £110.000 to £148.000.

Waterfront Edinburgh: This is the title of a government private partnership to build nearly 4,000

residential units along the eightmile waterfront. First for sprucing up are Granton and Muirhouse.

Council tax: Band A is £578, and Band H £1.734.

Estate Agents: ESPC 0131 624 8000; George Clark 0131 550 1001: Knight Frank 0131 225 8171.

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